

U.N. awaiting Iran's conditions

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar wants to know Iran's conditions for his proposed peace mission to Tehran before deciding whether to visit, his spokesman said Tuesday. Spokesman Francois Giulliani said the Iranian government still had not sent a written invitation to Mr. Perez de Cuellar to visit Baghdad. "The secretary general wants details of the position of the Iranian government," he said. Mr. Perez de Cuellar told reporters last week he would want to be assured that his mission would achieve positive results. Iran still has not notified the United Nations that it would accept the Security Council's July 20 resolution demanding a ceasefire in the war with Iraq. Iraq said it would stop fighting if Iran stopped. Giulliani said Iran's acceptance was not a condition for a visit by the secretary general, but his aim remained "peace within a month." Giulliani said, The U.N. general assembly opens in four weeks and it is customary for the secretary general to be on hand to confer with foreign ministers and other leaders who attend the opening.

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Shatila residents begin hunger strike

BEIRUT (R) — Palestinians in a Beirut refugee camp said Monday they had gone on hunger strike to demand a complete end to a 10-month old siege by Lebanese militiamen. "The residents of Shatila camp have started a hunger strike, in addition to the indefinite sit-in which they began on Aug. 11," a statement from the refugees said. Syrian troops helped in April to end a six-month "camp war," in which at least 900 people died, between Amal militiamen and Palestinians in the two main Beirut camps. But Shatila residents say the siege has continued, with Palestinian men unable to leave the camp and schools and medical centres closed by damage and a lack of supplies.

Charges substituted against Karami murder suspect

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon dropped a murder charge against a Lebanese soldier held in Sweden, pending extradition in connection with the assassination of the Lebanese prime minister, it was stated here Tuesday by judicial sources. The murder charge has instead been substituted with one of desertion, added the sources who did not wish to be identified. Sweden had earlier rejected the Lebanese extradition request on the grounds that Swedish law prevents the extradition of any person likely to face the death penalty. The substitution of a desertion charge against Elie Salibi appeared a clear ploy to circumvent the Swedish legal obstacle to his extradition. Desertion is not a capital offence in Lebanon, while murder is.

Efforts under way to free partygoers held in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Western diplomats sought Tuesday to free 87 foreigners, including six Americans, rounded up by Saudi police after a weekend party that violated the kingdom's strict ban on liquor. The party in Jeddah was hosted by an American, but diplomats declined to identify him. Thirty-seven Canadian and British air stewardesses and British nurses were among the detainees. Forty-nine of the partygoers were women. At least 30 Britons, a Dane, a Swede and a Dutch national were also among the group. But none of the sources knew the identities of all the detainees. One diplomat said the party broke at 10:45 p.m. Saturday night and when the revelers walked outside, Saudi authorities were waiting for them with a bus.

Arab faces arms charges in Britain

LONDON (R) — A 28-year-old Arab was remanded in custody on Tuesday charged with possessing explosives and firearms after a police raid in the north-eastern English city of Hull. Ishmail Hassan Sowdan, a research assistant, who reportedly holds a Jordanian passport, was remanded in custody until Aug. 27. More than 30 kilograms of explosives, four assault rifles, seven hand grenades, detonators and ammunition were found during the raid by police, who were investigating the shooting of Palestinian cartoonist Ali Naji Awad Al Adhami on July 22.

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Iranian warship tails Guadalcanal; mine detonated near Kuwait

KUWAIT (Agencies) — An Iranian warship shadowed the U.S. helicopter carrier Guadalcanal in the Gulf on Tuesday as a mine was detonated near tankers anchored off Kuwait waiting to join an American-guarded convoy.

The 11,000-tonne carrier, transporting specialist minesweeping helicopters and escorted by two U.S. warships, appeared to be scouting the route to be taken by the convoy, shipping sources said. An Iranian ship watched the force — a British warship was also nearby — and fired a red flare to warn a helicopter carrying photographers to keep away. Reuter photographer Ulli Michel in the helicopter said the minesweeping helicopters were flying from the Guadalcanal. At one stage a Soviet warship passed by escorting Soviet tanker in the other direction, he added. In Kuwait, the Defence Ministry said a mine was found and detonated on Tuesday as a convoy of four reflagged Kuwaiti tankers prepared to leave on a return 880-kilometre dash down

the Gulf. The tankers will be shepherded by American warships and preceded by the Guadalcanal's Sea Stallion helicopters probing for mines. One of the tankers was held by a mine on its journey up the Gulf last month and has been only partially filled with oil because of the damage. Shipping sources said the departure of the convoy would not be made public for fear of alerting the Iranians, whom the American and Kuwaitis accused of laying mines. The Kuwait report of the discovery of mine on Tuesday did (Continued on page 3)

Sheikh Zayed seen exerting intense effort at healing Syrian-Iraqi rift

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Visiting United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan met President Hafez Assad on Tuesday in what diplomats believe is an attempt to reconcile Syria and neighbouring Iraq. Diplomats said the two leaders were believed to be considering a response from Iraq to a message carried to Baghdad on Monday by two UAE envoys. Sheikh Zayed's special adviser Ahmad Khalifa Al Suweidi and UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi returned to Damascus Monday night from a quick trip to Baghdad after holding earlier meetings here. All sides have kept quiet about the talks but Sheikh Zayed said on arrival here on Saturday he was determined to press ahead with efforts to reconcile Arabs and Muslims. Sheikh Zayed, current president of the six-nation Gulf Coop-

eration Council (GCC), on Monday extended his visit to Damascus by one day to await the return of his envoys from Baghdad. The GCC states have long sought to reconcile Mr. Assad with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein so as to distance Syria from Iraq's war foe Iran. The diplomats said Sheikh Zayed was also likely to be seeking Syrian help in persuading Tehran to accept a United Nations Security Council ceasefire call already accepted by Baghdad. Informal sources quoted by AP said Sheikh Zayed was engaged in a two-pronged approach. The first is to end the long-standing rift between Syria and Iraq, and the second was to get Mr. Assad to intercede with Iran to smooth relations with Saudi Arabia in the wake of the July 31 riot in the Holy City of Mecca that left hundreds dead and Saudi-Iranian relations in tatters.

After a closed-door meeting at noon, Mr. Assad and Sheikh Zayed were joined by the two envoys the UAE president had dispatched to Baghdad Monday. There was no official word on the outcome of the various meetings. But knowledgeable sources said the extension of the UAE leader's visit to Damascus for a fourth day was an indication progress was being made. The indications were also strengthened by Monday's arrival in Damascus of the deputy secretary-general of the Arab League, Al Akhdar Al Ibrahimy of Algeria. The Arab League, together with Jordan and Saudi Arabia, have been trying for months to arrange a Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation. Official sources in the UAE said over the weekend that Sheikh Zayed would seek Syria's help in defusing the crisis in Saudi-Iranian relations caused by the Mecca riots.

S. Arabia blames Iran for diplomat's death

RIYADH (Agencies) — A Saudi diplomat has died at a Tehran hospital of injuries suffered in the Aug. 1 mob attack on the Saudi embassy, the government announced Tuesday. A Foreign Ministry statement said that political attaché Musa al Ghamdi died Monday night "as a result of injuries inflicted upon him during the vile aggression on the (Saudi) embassy by demagogic elements in Tehran." It also attributed his death to "the inhuman attitude" of Iranian authorities, who prevented the Saudis from flying the diplomat for treatment in a Saudi hospital. But Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted an informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry as saying Mr. Ghamdi died of a hemorrhage resulting from his transfer to Tehran airport. IRNA quoted the Foreign Ministry as saying that said despite of Mr. Ghamdi's critical condition, the Saudis accepted responsibility of discharging the diplomat from hospital. In its late editions, the English-language newspaper Saudi Gazette reported Mr. Ghamdi died after he was returned to hospital following an unexplained six-hour wait at Tehran's international airport for a flight back to Saudi Arabia. Citing unnamed sources, the paper said Mr. Ghamdi's death was "partly due to deep depression because he was unable to

leave." It quoted witnesses as saying Mr. Ghamdi was at the airport where members of the Saudi diplomatic mission gathered to see him off and "appeared extremely happy at the prospect of finally being allowed to return home." "For reasons yet to be explained he died a few hours later at the hospital," it said. Mr. Ghamdi was hurt when he fell out of a window as demonstrators took over the embassy, claiming Saudi Arabia was responsible for the Mecca violence. Saudi Arabia on Monday denounced Iran's campaign of "vituperation, lies and falsification" over the Mecca clashes. King Fahd chaired a cabinet session Monday and decided he would not seek to respond to the Iranian campaign except with "conclusive evidence that communicate proven facts to the world," information Minister Ali Al Shahr said in a statement. Mr. Shaer said the king and cabinet noted Iran's denunciation of the Mecca riots and its threats of revenge, rejecting them as "demagogic and destructive perpetrations plotted by the Tehran leadership who want to spread dissension and fear among the pilgrims... for political motives." It was the strongest statement by Saudi Arabia against Iran since Revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeini came to power in 1979 and threatened to

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Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor with members of the national teams which attended

special sports for the handicapped held in the U.K. last month and in the U.S. this month.

Their Majesties honour handicapped athletes

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Tuesday received the Jordanian team which took part in the special sports tournament for the physically handicapped which was held in the United Kingdom last month and the Jordanian team which took part in the Special Olympics for the handicapped held in Indiana, the U.S., earlier this month.

The King and Queen presented gifts to the members of the teams. The audience was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, Minister of Youth Eid Dahiyat, and the secretary general of the Jordan Federation for Sports for the Handicapped.

Iraq urges U.N. to force Iran to accept ceasefire

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Tuesday urged the United Nations to force Tehran to accept a Security Council resolution ordering a ceasefire in the Gulf war. It also indirectly criticised the Soviet Union over its reported opposition to applying sanctions against Iran, which has neither accepted nor rejected the resolution passed unanimously on July 20. Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar called for measures "to force the Iranian regime to stop its aggressive war and halt shelling Iraqi residential areas."

Iraqis step up air attacks

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq stepped up attacks on Iranian oil centres Tuesday with air raids on oil pumping sites and a power station, a Baghdad war bulletin said. The Iraqi high command communique said warplanes at 4:45 p.m. (1245 GMT) attacked oil fields to the south and a power station to the north of the oil town of Ahvaz, 115 kilometres from the northern Gulf coast. They also struck an oil field 70 kilometres north of Iran's main Gulf terminal at Kharg Island, it said. Iran's national news agency IRNA said the raids killed or wounded a number of workers and inflicted "some damage."

rejecting a Security Council resolution. He said Iraq rejected such attitudes by those "who try to cover up the Iranian position and look for justifications, counter to the cause of peace, and encourage the aggressor." Iran has criticised the resolution, saying it does not name Iraq as the "aggressor." Al Thawra, newspaper of Iraq's ruling Baath Party, on Tuesday criticised what it termed the "short-sighted policy and minor calculations of some big power which undermine the credibility of that state and its friendship." Diplomats said the Soviet Union was the "big power" involved, noting that it followed the reading over state of television on Saturday of an article by a Kuwaiti newspaper saying Moscow was opposed to imposing sanctions against Iran. The Soviet Union is Iraq's main arms supplier and the two

(Continued on page 3)

Dutch-British row over Gulf remarks

THE HAGUE (AP) — The Dutch government on Tuesday summoned the British ambassador here to explain allegations by a senior British official that the European nations were dragging their feet in restoring free navigation in the Gulf. In a Sunday interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, British Foreign Office Minister David Mellor said that a number of unnamed European nations were guilty of "a form of blackmail" by trying to limit action on the Gulf issue to the United Nations. "We know full well that those countries that are putting forward those suggestions are doing nothing whatsoever in putting the case to the United Nations... it is a form of blackmail," Mr. Mellor said in the interview. A Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman, whose government has been sounding out its Western European allies over the past 10 days on a diplomatic initiative in the United Nations to reach a ceasefire in the seven-year Iran-Iraq war, said Tuesday that Mr. Mellor's allegation was "incomprehensible." (Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek has asked the British ambassador to explain Mr. Mellor's statement today (Tuesday). At the British embassy, a spokesman said that Ambassador David Maitelson was expected to meet Mr. Van den Broek in the course of Tuesday.

King receives Omani message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein met at Al Nadwa Palace Tuesday with Seif Ibn Hamad Ibn Saud, chief of the Royal Court of Oman, who conveyed to the King a verbal message from Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said of Oman dealing with Jordanian-Omani relations. During the audience the King and the Omani envoy discussed developments in the Gulf war and means of ending the seven-year old conflict, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem was present at the audience. The Omani envoy, who arrived in Amman earlier in the day, paid tribute to the existing brotherly ties between Oman and Jordan in a statement to Petra. Mr. Qasem and Oman's Ambassador to Jordan Khamis Ibn Hamad Ibn Seif were at the airport to welcome the envoy.

Glass 'escapes' from captivity, thanks Syria for its efforts

Sharaa pledges continued quest to free hostages

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Kidnapped American journalist Charles Glass escaped from his Beirut captors while they slept before dawn Tuesday, and was taken by Syrian forces to Damascus where he was handed over to the senior U.S. diplomat in the Syrian capital. Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa handed Mr. Glass over to American Charge D'affaires David Ransom at the Foreign Ministry. Mr. Glass looked in good shape after his two-month ordeal, but appeared tired following his pre-dawn escape.

He said he wanted to fly to London, his home, "as soon as possible to meet with my family and folks." Mr. Sharaa renewed Syria's pledge to continue to work for the release of 25 foreigners missing in Lebanon and presumed kidnapped by extremists. Mr. Sharaa told reporters: "This is a principled position and from a humanitarian point of view... we will continue doing what we can to release all foreign hostages in Lebanon."

land Hotel in west Beirut at 2:30 a.m. (2330 GMT Monday), a Lebanese police spokesman said. Mr. Glass said he escaped as his captors slept. A Beirut radio station said he was released under pressure from Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon. Mr. Glass, 36, was pronounced fit by a doctor who examined in west Beirut before he was driven by Syrian intelligence officers to Damascus. He turned up at Mr. Sharaa's office at 11:45 a.m. (0845 GMT), clean-shaven and wore a blue

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Jayewardene unhurt but 1 killed, 17 lawmakers injured in attack

COLOMBO (Agencies) — President Junius R. Jayewardene escaped injury Tuesday when terrorists hurled hand grenades inside the Sri Lankan parliament. Officials said one lawmaker was killed and the prime minister was wounded in the failed assassination attempt. Witnesses and officials said Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa suffered a slight leg wound. They also said five cabinet ministers were wounded, some seriously, and at least 17 lawmakers were injured. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali was reported seriously injured but not in danger of dying. Mr. Jayewardene blamed right-wing Sinhalese terrorists for the attack and called it an attempt

"to destroy parliamentary democracy." The 82-year-old president said in a special nationwide broadcast that it was fortunate that he was not hurt. "I have blood marks on my coat on the left shoulder which I will keep as a memento." The attack occurred at 9:20 (0350 GMT) as Mr. Jayewardene presided over a meeting of 120 of his governing United National Party (UNP) lawmakers in a posh committee room in the modernistic suburban parliament complex. One or more unidentified assailants hurled two or three grenades through an open door at Mr. Jayewardene and one exploded 10 metres from him, but next to Mr. Athulathmudali. The state-run Sri Lanka Broad-

casting Corporation identified the dead lawmaker as Kirtibi Abeyawickreme, a district minister. There was no official announcement of the death. Also wounded were Agriculture Minister Gamini Jayasuriya, Minister of Plantation Industry Montague Jayawickreme, Culture Minister Edward Hurulle and Parliamentary Affairs and Sports Minister Vincent Perera. Among the wounded lawmakers was U.B. Wijekoon, who comes from the Tamil-dominated northern province of Jaffna. The others were not identified. The attack took place three weeks after Mr. Jayewardene signed a pact with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to end a four-year-old rebellion by minority Tamils.

Israel says Soviet Union interested in keeping contacts

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel and the Soviet Union have agreed to establish a "direct channel of communication" as a possible step towards breaking their 20-year diplomatic impasse, an Israeli official said Tuesday. The announcement followed a 10-hour meeting in Bonn, West Germany, over the weekend between Nimrod Novick, a chief aide to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and Vladimir Tarasov, a Soviet expert on the Middle East. "The Soviets told us they plan to open a direct channel of communication between our two countries," Mr. Novick told Israel Radio. "This is the application of an intention they have expressed previously, to open a political dialogue with us." Mr. Novick did not elaborate, but a foreign ministry official said the move meant "establishing intensive, routine contacts."

The Soviet Union severed diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1967 war. Asked if the Soviet initiative indicated a willingness to renew ties, the official said: "We do not know. But we are looking at the situation with guarded optimism." Israeli hopes were raised last month by the arrival of a Soviet consular delegation, the first official Soviet group to visit the Jewish state since 1967. The delegation is surveying Russian church property and monitoring the status of Soviet citizens. Its members have not sought to engage in political contacts with Israeli leaders. Mr. Novick called his meeting with Mr. Tarasov "the most thorough and concrete exchange so far" between the two countries on Middle East peace efforts, and said he had encountered a new Soviet flexibility on key issues concerning the Middle East.

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Hess 'committed suicide' in prison

WEST BERLIN (R) — Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess, who died on Monday after 40 years in Spandau war crimes prison, probably committed suicide, an allied statement said Tuesday. The dramatic telexed communique on behalf of the Soviet, British, U.S. and French authorities who guarded the jail, said 93-year-old Hess was found by a guard in a small cottage in the prison yard with an electric cord around his neck. Allied sources said the apparent strangling was the fourth time that Hess, in failing health after 21 years as the only prisoner in Spandau, had tried to kill himself. "A preliminary investigation indicates that Rudolf Hess attempted to take his own life," the statement said. Earlier story on page 8

Solarz: U.S. warships will strike back if Iran attacks

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (Agencies) — U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz, a prominent Democrat from New York currently visiting Saudi Arabia, warned in an interview Tuesday that U.S. warships in the Gulf will strike back if Iran attacked them directly.

The English-language newspaper Saudi Gazette also quoted Mr. Solarz as saying he was "somewhat concerned" about the possibility of Soviet involvement in the United States and Iran began fighting.

However, he did not expect Iran to invite the Soviets onto its territory. "It's the last thing they want to do," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Solarz, a prominent supporter of the Israeli lobby in the House of Representatives, arrived in the kingdom Sunday. He is on a fact-finding mission about Saudi Arabia and the increasing tension in the Gulf as a result of the Iraq-Iran war and its effect on the region.

The United States has beefed up its naval presence in the Gulf recently after undertaking to escort Kuwaiti tankers transferred to the American flag as a protection against Iranian attack.

"Obviously if they attack us we are going to strike back. Precisely which target we strike has to be determined," he was quoted as saying.

"The United States is not a punching bag. I cannot imagine the United States would send its sailors into a situation where they could be attacked and prohibit them from striking back at their attackers," Mr. Solarz added.

Mr. Solarz said the reflagging had an important implication. He believed that if the United States had not agreed to reflag the Kuwaiti tankers, he could not see why Iran would stop attacking Kuwaiti ships, the Gazette reported him as saying, without giving a direct quote of his statement.

His visit coincided with reports that the U.S. administration is to re-submit to Congress shortly consideration of the blocked multi-million-dollar sale of Maverick

anti-tank missiles to Saudi Arabia. Notification of the deal was withdrawn by the administration in May following pressure and opposition from the pro-Israeli lobby in Congress.

Mr. Solarz conferred with Saudi Foreign Minister Sheikh Saud Al Faisal and other officials in the Red Sea summer capital of Jeddah on Monday.

He later moved to the capital Riyadh for meetings at the U.S. embassy and with the Governor of Riyadh, Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz, a brother of King Fahd.

No decisions on arms sales to Saudis

Meanwhile White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Monday no decisions had been made on when to submit the sale of F-15 planes and Maverick anti-tank missiles to Congress or whether it should be all in one package.

Mr. Fitzwater said the plan to revive the sale was not related to U.S. naval operations in the Gulf and that there was no deal for U.S. warplanes to use Saudi airfields in return for U.S. progress on the weapons sales.

But he said Saudi Arabia had "clearly demonstrated to the public and to the Congress that they're an ally and a good friend in the Gulf," he said.

The United States is now basing its planes on the aircraft carrier Constellation outside the Gulf to protect U.S.-flag ships against Iranian attack.

Mr. Fitzwater said the arms being considered included the same Maverick missiles and F-15s that the administration had talked about earlier this year.

The administration last June

withdrew a proposal to sell 1,600 anti-tank Mavericks worth \$360 million after opponents of the sale had criticised the Saudis for failing to shoot down an Iraqi aircraft involved in a missile attack on the U.S. frigate Stark in the Gulf.

Last year it pulled back on plans to sell the Saudis a dozen F-15 fighters, worth \$500 million, to replace those lost to attrition, together with other equipment.

Mr. Fitzwater said there had been no formal discussions at the White House on the deal and there were different opinions on when the sale should go to Congress.

But he said it could be submitted in September or later in the year and left open the possibility that the whole package might not be sent at one time.

Whenever the plan goes to Congress it is sure to lead to a hard-fought battle.

Israel and its supporters in Congress argue that Saudi Arabia is hostile to the Jewish state and arms sales to the kingdom are a threat to Israel.

Should the arms sale proposal go to Congress in September, it would come at a time when the administration is already embroiled in problems over the budget, trade legislation and the confirmation fight over the nomination of conservative Judge Robert Bork to the supreme court.

Israel has expressed concern to U.S. officials over reports the Reagan administration plans to sell \$1 billion in arms to Saudi Arabia, a Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday.

"We are against any arms sales to countries who are in the state of war with Israel," said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Washington knows our position very well."

Israel is technically at war with Saudi Arabia.

The official said Israel's charge d'affaires in Washington, Oded Eiran, met recently with an official in the U.S. State Department and conveyed the Israeli position on the issue.

U.K. navy could aid U.S. in Gulf — minister

LONDON (R) — Britain said Tuesday warships protecting British shipping in the Gulf could give support to U.S. vessels in times of danger.

Asked what would happen if a U.S. ship under attack asked for help from a British warship, Foreign Office Minister David Mellor said: "consideration is given to the facts as they (the British commanders) see them."

"We have rules of engagement. We are always ready to consider assisting our allies — whether that assistance would be given or what it would be depends on the circumstances," he added, refusing to rule out the possibility of a British warship helping a U.S. warship in trouble.

Mr. Mellor said in a radio interview: "We would of course get drawn into some kind of fighting if an attack was made on our ships but we believe that won't happen."

Four British anti-mine vessels and their support ships are carrying out last minute trials off Scotland before starting the 6,000-mile voyage to the Gulf.

The force will take some five weeks to join up with the two frigates and a destroyer already on patrol in the Gulf protecting British ships from attack by Iranian or Iraqi forces. The patrol has been going on for seven years.

British warships operate under strict rules of engagement, which Mr. Mellor summed up as: "If one of our ships is attacked, we will respond."

He denied opposition Labour Party claims that British mine warfare vessels had been sent because of U.S. pressure.

The idea that we have been dragged in on Uncle Sam's coat-tails just doesn't merit serious consideration," he said.

Mr. Mellor also said Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had been in contact with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to try to get him to put pressure on Iran to join in a ceasefire.

Meanwhile, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has sent a personal message about the Gulf crisis to Mrs. Thatcher, officials in London said Tuesday.

They declined to give details of the message but said it was delivered through the Soviet ambassador to Britain, Leonid Zamyatin, when he met Mr. Mellor Monday.

The message was delivered hours after four British miniships sailed out of the Scottish port of Rosyth to join Britain's naval patrol in the Gulf and help minesweeping operations there.

The message exists and it concerns the Gulf, a government official told Reuters.

He declined to confirm reports that the message reflected Soviet views on the timing of any further moves by the United Nations Security Council to end the war.

'Iran plays for time to keep oil lifeline open'

By Stephen Jukes
Reuters

BAHRAIN — Iran, facing strong Western and Arab pressure to halt its war with Iraq, is playing for time to keep its oil lifeline through the Gulf open, diplomats in the region said.

While Iraq has conditionally accepted a United Nations ceasefire order and suspended attacks on Iranian oil tankers, Tehran has neither accepted nor rejected the call.

And despite growing tension in the region, Iran has been able to export virtually unimpeded \$25-million worth of oil out of the Gulf each day, earning sorely needed hard currency to finance the war.

"Iran is stringing the U.N. along by neither accepting nor rejecting the ceasefire order... There is a clear policy of playing for time," one Western diplomat said.

Both Western and Arab countries have launched diplomatic offensives to isolate Iran and force it to comply with the unanimous July 20 Security Council resolution.

But diplomats said progress on both fronts appeared very slow, raising fears that Iraq's patience might run out and its attacks on Iranian tankers resume.

Iran has invited U.N. Secretary

"There must be a limit to Iraq's patience," another Gulf based diplomat said. "There will come a day when Baghdad says 'we have done our bit' and starts attacking Iranian ships. That will start the whole tanker war off again."

Iran and Iraq have continued to wage their ground war, but Baghdad has not announced a raid on Iran's key Kharg oil terminal in the northern Gulf since July 13. No Iranian-linked shipping has come under attack for six weeks.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Oil industry sources in the region estimate Iran's exports now running at 1.8 million barrels per day, worth about \$25 million at current prices. The only interruption has been a mine explosion that holed the U.S.-operated tanker Texaco Caribbean on a charter trip to Europe a week ago.

Tehran, which depends on the Gulf to ship its oil, has been careful to do nothing that will disturb the fragile peace in the "tanker war" despite keeping up a steady stream of rhetoric against the United States and other Western powers drafting warships into the region.

Iran has invited U.N. Secretary

General Javier Perez de Cuellar to Tehran, but his spokesman in New York has said he would only go if there were the prospect of a positive outcome.

The diplomatic offensive against Iran is being waged on two fronts, but there are already signs that Iraq may be growing impatient.

The United States, backed by Britain, has been pressing permanent members of the Security Council for an arms embargo against Iran to reinforce the July 20 ceasefire order.

Gulf Arab states have embarked on another attempt to break Syrian support for Iran and cut Tehran off from its only major ally in the Arab World.

Iraq Tuesday implicitly attacked Moscow for dragging its feet over an embargo. An editorial in the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra criticised the "short-sighted policy" of a "big power."

Diplomats described this as a thinly veiled reference to the Soviet Union, one of the Security Council's five permanent members. U.S. officials in Washington said Monday Moscow was hesitating in initial consultations over an arms embargo.

Progress on bringing Syria back into the Arab fold appear to have made little headway since hopes were raised earlier this year by a

secret meeting between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

But diplomats said the April meeting had failed to mend fences between Syria and Iraq.

What diplomats see as another attempt is now being made by the ruler of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who Monday extended a visit to Damascus to await the return of his envoys from Baghdad.

Sheikh Zaid is current president of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which groups six Gulf Arab states.

Western diplomats said his intervention could be seen as more neutral than that of Saudi Arabia, currently embroiled in a diplomatic row with Tehran after the deaths of Iranian pilgrims in the Mecca riot.

The trip to Damascus has been flanked by close contact between Oman, another key member of the GCC, and Iran.

The Dubai-based Khaleej Times said in an editorial Tuesday that only diplomacy held out the promise of peace.

The build-up of Western navies, a war of words between Iran and the United States and intensified fighting in the ground war were only propelling the Gulf towards a "destructive wider conflict."

4 charged with helping in murder of Nablus mayor

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli military authorities in the occupied West Bank have charged four Palestinians with involvement in last year's murder of Nablus Mayor Zafir Al Masri, Israeli sources said.

An Israeli military court in Nablus Monday said two women from the town and two men from the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip had joined the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and helped a PFLP squad which killed Mr. Masri last March, the sources said.

The men were charged with complicity in the murder, illegal possession of firearms and membership of a banned organisation and the women were accused of aiding the PFLP squad, the sources said.

They are also suspected of involvement in the killing of two Israelis in Nablus last year and another four attempted murders, the sources said.

In Gaza, witnesses reported long queues Monday at army roadblocks set up in the wake of a machinegun attack on Sunday night which wounded two Israelis near the Jabalya Palestinian Refugee Camp.

The wounded men, one of them a soldier, were in intensive care at a hospital in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba, Israel Television reported.

The soldier, shot six times in the chest and hip, was in serious but stable condition, while the other man, hit in the thigh, was less seriously injured, it said.

Congressmen vow to block Saudi arms sales

WASHINGTON (R) — Congressional critics say they would move immediately to block a new \$1 billion Saudi arms sale President Reagan is considering to buttress U.S. cooperation with the Gulf ally.

A senator who led the successful opposition to Mr. Reagan's last Saudi arms sale proposal told Reuters he would introduce immediately a resolution in Congress to block this one.

"I think it would be very unwise (for Mr. Reagan) to do something so divisive," the senator, Dennis DeConcini, an Arizona Democrat, said.

Opponents fought a sale in June largely on the argument that Saudi Arabia had refused to intercept the Iraqi plane that fired two missiles at the U.S. frigate Stark.

Sen. DeConcini said he thought

congressional opposition would be even greater now because of Saudi Arabia's and Kuwait's reported informal refusal to allow U.S. minesweeping helicopters for U.S. convoys in the Gulf to land in their territory.

"I think if anything the opposition might be more because of the recalcitrance of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to let us have space to land our planes when we're there protecting their oil," the senator said.

But the overriding opposition in Congress to the Saudi sales comes from a large number of legislators who agree with Israel that sophisticated weapons sold to Arab nations might eventually be used against Israel.

Republican Senator Robert Packwood of Oregon told NBC News Monday, "until they'll bar-

gain (a peace agreement) with Israel, we should not be giving them sophisticated weapons."

Under U.S. law, any major U.S. arms sale must be submitted to Congress.

Mr. Reagan submitted and then withdrew under heavy opposition in June a proposal to sell Saudi Arabia 1,600 Maverick anti-tank missiles worth \$360 million.

Last year Mr. Reagan withdrew a separate proposal to sell the Saudis 12 F-15 jet fighter-planes worth \$500 million plus other equipment.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Monday that administration officials had consulted with several senators about resubmitting those sales to Congress either as a package or in pieces.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
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PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Review of programmes
15:55 Cartoons and Children's programmes

17:30 Small Wonder
18:30 St. Elsewhere Hospital
19:30 Local programme
20:30 News in Arabic
21:30 Cultural programme
22:30 Wrestling cont.

PROGRAMME TWO
15:00 Cinq filles a Paris
15:30 News in French
16:30 A jour d'hui en Jordanie
17:30 News in Hebrew
18:30 Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Don't Wait Up
21:30 The Silk Road
22:30 News in English
23:30 Condominium

RADIO JORDAN
85.5 KHz AM & 99 KHz FM
& part on 98.0 KHz SW
Tel: 73111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show Cont.
10:00 Men from the Ministry
11:30 Songs from Movies
12:00 News Summary
12:30 Readings
13:00 Pop Session
13:30 News Summary
14:00 Pop Session
14:30 News Bulletin
15:00 Jordan Weekly
15:30 Piano Magic
16:00 Concert Hour
16:30 News in Summary
16:45 Instrumentals
17:00 Old Favourites
17:30 Jordan Weekly
18:00 Pop Session
18:30 News Summary
19:00 Now Music
19:30 Music Desk
20:00 Date with a Star
20:30 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:30 Evening Show Cont.
22:00 News Summary
22:30 Evening Show Continued

23:00 News Summary
23:30 Evening Show Continued
23:57 News Headlines
24:00 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1323 KHz

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Jordan Times

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Are we missing something?

IN ITS involvement in efforts to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East, Washington appears to be telling the Arab side not to despair about the American inability at the present to nudge Israel from its rejectionist position on the question of the conference. But it seems that Washington says or appears to be saying is one thing while what it is doing is something else, different in scope and purpose. What the Reagan administration is doing right now is not bringing Israel any closer to accepting the idea of the conference. Rather it seems to be strengthening the band of forces opposing what is universally considered as the only available vehicle for Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Following his meeting with Mr. Charles Hill, a special U.S. envoy, earlier this month, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was quoted as saying that they had discussed "other ideas than an international conference which I don't see as a means of advancing peace." Knowing Mr. Shamir, we wonder what it was exactly that Mr. Hill was discussing with him. Upon Mr. Hill's return to Washington, the U.S. State Department confirmed the envoy did not bring new ideas or initiatives and that during discussions with the Israeli premier and his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, both sides reaffirmed the need to continue active efforts to find practical ways to move the peace process forward. The State Department then added that it understood the importance of working with a unified Israeli government as both countries proceed in efforts to move the peace process forward. Nice words of course, but could the State Department please tell us how on earth it perceives dealing with a unified Israeli government and promote the only possible means to peace talks at the same time. True, one should not expect Washington to take sides and contribute to the existing divisions within the Israeli government, but is it not possible for this superpower to have its own independent stand on Middle East issues, its own policies and its own drive? U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said in an Aug. 6 press conference that an international conference, in and of itself, is of no interest to the United States and that the way to go was through direct negotiations. Well, is this not exactly what the Israeli rejectionist camp wants to hear to strengthen its opposition to an international conference? Or are we missing something there?

The next set of questions are all too familiar. Still, it may be useful to keep asking them between now and then. When will it sink in in Washington that, with or without direct negotiations, the Likud party as led by Shamir and Sharon and others of their ilk is never going to agree, under any condition, to relinquish what those Israelis consider the land of Eretz Israel, Judea and Samaria and Gaza? How many times does Shamir need to repeat that what he is essentially offering is direct negotiations to achieve "peace in return for peace?" and when will it be understood that Shamir is proposing the same terms he knows are most unpalatable to the Arab side and that he would only call for direct negotiations as long as he knows there is no one on the Arab side to return his call? And, finally, when will it sink in in Washington that if the U.S. was really interested in peace, it cannot continue to strengthen the hands of those who oppose it?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: First step in right direction

THE on-going seminar on management of government departments heard Ibrahim Izzeddin, president of the Civil Service Commission, outlining the outcome of continued government efforts to develop public administration in Jordan. Mr. Izzeddin pointed in particular to achievements made in education, in health and in the establishment of a national data system. He also referred to current moves to enact legislation on science and technology and the introduction of amendments to legislations governing the country's administrative system.

Mr. Izzeddin referred in particular to the work of the Civil Service Commission and the Royal Commission for Administrative Reform and their drive to develop, control and finance programmes and on job training in government businesses and the selection of the right persons for filling government posts. He said these were all inter-related issues which, if handled properly, could result in success and help promote the aims of national development. Mr. Izzeddin rightly pointed out that the development of the country's public administration is bound to achieve success, since it enjoys the backing and support of the political leadership and the blessings of King Hussein who has been giving serious attention to the development of government departments in the Kingdom. Perhaps the seminar which is attended by heads of government departments will result in constructive resolutions serving as a first step in the right direction.

Al Dustour: Kinsmen need more support

EVERYDAY brings with it more evidence and further proof of Israel's expansionist and colonialist nature and its lust for aggression and usurpation of Arab land with total disregard to international principles and laws. While appearing to be inclined to make peace with the Arabs, the Israeli leaders are now involved in stealing water resources from the occupied West Bank and making preparations for building yet four more Jewish settlements on confiscated Arab territory.

At the same time, Israel continues to stifle all forms of resistance to its arbitrary and illegal measures. Following the announcement of its seizure of the Jerusalem District Electricity Company Israeli troops used force to stem anti-Israeli demonstrations and protests like those which happened recently in Gaza Strip and the Jabaliya refugee camp. Israel seems intent on maintaining the policy of force against the Arab inhabitants, detaining Arab youths, imposing curfews and expropriating more Arab land. By pursuing this aggressive policy, Israel is creating many hostile elements within the Arab community, and, by its repressive measures in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, it is opening new fronts.

We believe, regardless of the duration of the occupation, it will end one day. We also believe that the Arab population under Israeli rule is now in need of solidarity from their kinsmen in the rest of the Arab World and more support in this adversity.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel has old/new designs

TWO spots in the Arab World are currently witnessing increased tension which is detrimental to Arab security and stability. The first being the Gulf where foreign naval forces are being amassed while the Gulf conflict is being escalated. The other is Lebanon where Israel is escalating tension in the south and foreign agents conspiring to rekindle the civil strife, involving east and west Beirut in a new cycle of violence and bloodshed. Israel is massing troops in southern Lebanon, awaiting an opportune moment for penetrating Lebanese territory again for new acts of aggression.

As the war activity in the Gulf is gaining momentum, the Israelis in South Lebanon are making preparations for a new incursion which they hope will help them make gains that they missed in their 1982 invasion.

Riyadh-Tehran rift strengthens Saudi-Egyptian solidarity

By Aly Mahmoud
The Associated Press

BAHRAIN — Egypt has played an important theological card in favour of Saudi Arabia and against Iran's attempt to gain influence over the holy places in the kingdom.

Cairo's Al Azhar University and mosque last week issued a religious edict for all Muslims to condemn Iran for the Mecca riots.

"Islam and Muslims are being subjected to a conspiracy led by a mischievous group against the sacred places of God," Al Azhar said in a statement broadcast by state-run Cairo Radio. "Iran has unveiled its mischief toward Islam's holy shrines when it instigated the (Mecca) riots."

Arab diplomats and high officials here said it is a significant move in the rebuilding of bridges between Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Saudi Arabia, they say, sees the Egypt connection as a means of countering a growing Iranian menace after the bloody pilgrimage clashes in Mecca July 31.

The 10-century-old Al Azhar is generally recognised as the intellectual capital of Islam and the most respected seat of Islamic learning. The mosque and uni-

versity remain the leading source of Koranic interpretation on matters ranging from theology to politics and civil laws.

It commands important influence among the Sunni Muslim sect, who make up more than 90 per cent of the world's estimated 850 million Muslims.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia messaged his thanks and appreciation to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for Al Azhar's statement.

Saudi Arabia in 1979 joined other Arab powers in severing diplomatic relations with Egypt in protest against its treaty with Israel.

The minister was referring to Egypt's quest for formal resumption of diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and other Arab countries.

During the sacred Muslim pilgrimage a large number of the 157,000 Iranian pilgrims defied Saudi warnings and tried to organise anti-American and anti-Saudi demonstrations in streets and squares around Mecca's Grand Mosque, Islam's holiest shrine.

A total of 402 persons, 275 of them Iranian, were killed in stampedes and clashes with riot police, in what the Saudis de-

Off you go, my children.
The world is waiting
for our message.



nounced as an attempt to desecrate Mecca.

The Tehran Islamic revolutionary regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini claimed the Saudi security forces opened up with machine gun fire on the demonstrators, and threatened to "divest control of the holy shrines from the contaminated existence of the (Saudi) Wahhabis, those bootleggers."

The Iranians also vowed to "remove the colossal and precious wealth belonging to the Islamic World which lies under the soil of the Arabian Peninsula... from the control of the criminals."

This was widely seen here as an attempt by Iran to broaden its political differences with Saudi Arabia into a religious and eco-

nomie conflict.

Despite its recognised status as defender of the faith and guardian of Islam's holy places, Saudi Arabia was clearly pleased to get help to meet the Iranian challenge to its stewardship of the Islamic holy places.

Iran's attitude during the Haj was condemned by many Islamic countries around the world. The Iranian threat, according

to analysts and opinion-makers in the Gulf, has encouraged the view that the ouster of Egypt has aggravated conditions of disunity in the Arab World.

Khomeini has threatened to "export" his Islamic revolution to Saudi Arabia and other countries along the Gulf region. Since 1980 Saudi security have been trying to cope with attempts by Iranian pilgrims to spread political propaganda and foment unrest among the pilgrims every year.

The Saudis displayed arms and explosives the Iranians tried to smuggle into the kingdom at the onset of the Haj season last year. Iran's aggressive behaviour has already led to one expression of regional Arab unity.

In 1981, after the 1979 Iranian revolution, the brief seizure of the Grand Mosque in Mecca by radical fundamentalists and Iran-backed subversive plots to incite Shi'ites in several Gulf countries, the Gulf Cooperation Council was formed.

Saudi Arabia, the leading member, is joined by Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

It was created to shield the Gulf Arab countries against internal subversion and external military threats.

Mountain air won't cure Reagan's political ills

By William Scally
Reuters

SANTA BARBARA — President Reagan has settled into a three-week holiday at his mountain ranch hideaway hoping the rest does as much for his political reputation as his health.

When he comes down from the retreat next month he will need all the strength he puts into his favourite holiday chore of chopping wood to cope with hard foreign policy issues and battle congress on the budget, trade, and defence.

Reagan hopes the sleepy vacation month of August and his televised address last week, hours before he headed west on holiday, can heal the wound inflicted on his presidency by the seventh-month Iran-contra scandal.

"The issues involved have been examined from every angle and in every light. The mistakes that were made have been dealt with. Now it's time for Americans to come together and move our nation forward," he said in a Saturday radio speech from his California ranch.

But the effects of the secret arms sales to Iran and diversion of profits to the U.S.-backed rebels in Nicaragua have in the view

of many political experts damaged beyond repair Reagan's once-formidable political clout.

Polls show that an overwhelming majority of the American people still like and respect Reagan.

But a recent poll also found that 49 per cent of Americans were unsatisfied with the president's explanation of the scandal and 63 per cent disbelieved he was unaware of the diversion of funds to the contras.

Of Reagan's ability to dominate the political scene for the last 17 months of his presidency, Democratic pollster Peter Hart said, "I think those days are past for Ronald Reagan."

The budget will be one of the most decisive battles.

In speech after speech, Reagan has blasted Congress for its chaotic dealings with the deficit-ridden federal budget.

"Delay after delay, missed deadline after missed deadline, the entire budget process is so chaotic it is providing a cover for those in Congress whose aim is to shift resources from the people's interest to the special interests," he said in his radio speech.

Despite record government deficits run up during his presiden-

cy, Reagan has repeatedly rejected calls for a tax increase and has attacked congressional cuts in defence spending.

His solution has been a call for an amendment to the constitution mandating a balanced budget and power to veto parts of a spending bill instead of the whole thing.

Reagan is also threatening to veto trade legislation unless it is short of what he says are dangerous protectionist provisions. "I will not sign bills that close down markets and shut off expanded job opportunities," he has said.

Tension between Congress and the president is also on the rise over Reagan's nomination of Judge Robert Bork as supreme court justice. The confirmation of Bork, an advocate of judicial restraint, has become a conservative battle cry.

But the president is at odds with many of those same conservatives, his main backers, over Central American policy.

They fear his conditional acceptance of a peace plan adopted by Central American presidents could lead to the administration selling out the contras. Liberal Democrats suspect the administration's motive in pursuing negotiations is to pave the

way for more contra aid. A new battle on aid is expected when a \$100 million package runs out on Sept. 30.

Reagan and Congress are also dancing around each other over policy in the Gulf.

Many legislators fear the United States might be drawn into the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war by putting 11 Kuwaiti tankers under the U.S. flag and giving them navy protection against Iranian attack.

Another incident in the Gulf like a Kuwaiti tanker hitting a mine and a U.S. jet firing a missile at an Iranian aircraft are certain to renew demands that the War Powers Act be invoked.

The one bright spot for Reagan is arms control, with the United States and the Soviet Union saying an agreement on eliminating intermediate-range nuclear missiles is reachable.

The accord would be the first to commit the superpowers to scrapping major nuclear weapons systems, and would assure Reagan a unique place in history.

If all goes well Reagan is likely to sign the treaty at a Washington summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev late this year or early next year.



David Lange with supporters after being elected prime minister for a third term

New Zealand Labour gets open mandate

By Christopher Pritchett
Reuters

WELLINGTON — New Zealand's Labour Party has returned to power with a virtually free hand thanks to a new coalition of supporters forged by its free-market policies.

"What a remarkable country. What a remarkable judgment," Prime Minister David Lange said when his party was re-elected Saturday with a comfortable 15-seat majority in parliament, the same overall as in the previous assembly.

Lange, 45, said the mould of New Zealand politics had been broken and sent to the furnace by a new spread of supporters backing his nominally Socialist Party: the wealthy in the big cities, workers, and small businessmen in the provinces.

"And this is the man who did it," he proclaimed, joining hands with Finance Minister Roger Douglas at a victory celebration in Auckland.

Douglas has promised more reforms by a government that campaigned on its record and promised so little that it can now claim it has an almost unlimited mandate.

The outcome was a bitter blow to Jim Bolger, 52-year-old leader of the opposition National Party which promised much and ruled New Zealand for nine years until 1984.

Media commentators say Bolger won the campaign with a vigorous presentation of policies but lost the election by failing to recognise the power of the coalition forged by Labour among the nation's 2.1 million voters.

Observers had predicted he would draw support from workers who bore the brunt of unemployment and older voters hankering for the "good old days" of prosperity.

Bolger's consolation is that he consolidated his position as leader of a sometimes quarrelsome party and can feel much freer to replace some of its old guard with younger members full of new ideas.

Labour inherited an almost bankrupt nation when it won a snap election called by former National Prime Minister Sir Robert Muldoon in 1984.

The reforms that followed were not among its promises, leading to Bolger's charge that it had a secret agenda both then and now. Farmers lost subsidies and many were driven off the land by bankruptcy.

The economy was de-regulated. The dollar was devalued 20 per cent and floated.

Government departments were turned into commercial corporations and told to make profits or

go out of business.

The tax burden was shifted from earners to consumers. Inflation remains high and unemployment has grown but Douglas and Lange insist this is inevitable and New Zealand is clawing its way back to prosperity.

Lange told reporters on Sunday that there was no turning back because the nation had embraced the reforms fully.

"It's a matter of capitalising on what has already been sacrificed for," he said. "What's going to happen in the next three years is that we will use a dynamic economy to make New Zealand a fitter place to live in."

He and Douglas have said their next targets for change are social services and education. Labour believes teachers are not providing the training and skills needed by employers.

Douglas devoted his final campaign speech to these goals and what he sees as the need to get value for billions of dollars spent by a nation that believes it invented the welfare state.

He had a warning for the providers of social services such as doctors, civil servants and administrators.

"We have poured a lot of money in one end without succeeding in getting comparable improvements out the other end," he said. "We have allowed the interests of the providers to diverge from the interests of those who need the service."

He added that identification of waste could improve access to services and their delivery.

The election means there will be no change in foreign policy. Labour is committed to keeping New Zealand free of nuclear weapons despite the strain this has caused in relations with Washington and the country's suspension from the ANZUS defence alliance with the United States and Australia.

"We have a businesslike, practical relationship with the United States," Lange said. "We're not going to have a military relationship with the United States and we're not going to be in a nuclear relationship with the United States."

He added that Australia's Bob Hawke would visit New Zealand this year for the first time since Hawke became Labour prime minister in 1984. They would discuss trade, the Pacific region and government reorganisation in New Zealand.

Lange said Hawke had telephoned him Saturday night as the election results came in. The Australian leader had said he was very impressed with Douglas' economic programme, he added

Soviets make arms concessions but both superpowers are seen winning

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The Soviet Union has made most of the concessions that have brought the superpowers close to a new arms agreement and probably will give way on its stand against the Pershing-1A missile as well, U.S. officials and analysts say.

But while the deal to scrap intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) worldwide is shaping up as strongly favouring the U.S. position, most experts say it is simplistic to conclude that one side is the winner and the other the loser.

"I think that rarely is there a net victor, somebody who stole the deal from the other," Harvard University defence analyst Ashton Carter told Reuters.

"We're all too careful for that," Senior U.S. arms control official Kenneth Adelman has boasted the approaching INF deal "is basically on our terms," and many experts agree.

"To reach this moment of opportunity, the two sides have come a long way... with the Soviet Union making essentially all the concessions," said Spurgeon Keeny of the Independent Arms Control Association.

These include the Soviet Union abandoning demands such as: — British and French nuclear forces must be included in negotiations;

— An agreement on INF weapons in Europe, including Soviet SS4 and SS20 missiles and U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles with a range of 1,000 to 5,000 kilometres, be linked to an accord on strategic weapons and space defences;

— That shorter-range INF missiles, which travel 500 to 1,000 kilometres, be negotiated separately; and

— That Moscow retain 100 INF warheads in Asia. Moreover, if the pact is signed this year as many expect, the Soviets would have to destroy more than 1,400 warheads while the Americans would only lose 316.

"It's quite unusual to see an unbalanced equilibrium of concessions" like this, said Ambassador Gerard Smith, who helped negotiate the 1972 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.

"The general impression is that the Soviets seem to be more anxious for a deal than we are," he told Reuters.



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Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev seized the arms control propaganda advantage, at least in Europe, with a series of concessions since February that surprised many U.S. analysts and injected momentum into moribund U.S.-Soviet talks at Geneva.

U.S. officials believe the credit is undeserved because, they say, Moscow adopted an untenable position in 1981 when President Reagan first proposed destroying all INF missiles.

"If the Soviets start off with an outrageous position and we start out with a reasonable position, then to get an agreement that's worthwhile, they've got to make many more concessions than we have," said one senior U.S. official.

But Dimitri Simes, a Soviet expert with the private Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said the original Soviet stance was reasonable given the Soviet leadership and thinking that existed when Reagan came to office in 1981.

Then, he said, Soviet doctrine held that "you don't sacrifice military systems which you just deployed, you never give away more than the other side."

But with Gorbachev's bold new leadership and creativity, the Soviets have come to realise "it can make more sense to sacrifice greater numbers of weapons... to achieve a desirable objective," Simes said.

It is widely believed in the United States that Gorbachev needs a major foreign policy achievement soon to counter domestic critics and enable his government to devote its resources to reinvigorating the Soviet system.

Reagan leaves office in January 1989 and if an arms deal is not reached with him, it could wait for years until a new president — even if inclined towards arms control — is ready.

The INF deal is more significant politically than militarily. It hinges on a class of weapons that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) began to deploy in 1983 only after much agonising.

Many U.S. analysts say that by accepting the so-called zero option, Moscow has a chance to unsettle the alliance, embarrass Washington and advance Soviet goals in Europe.

This is seen in a Soviet demand, advanced only since April, that 72 West German Pershing-1A missiles with U.S. warheads and a range of 740 kilometres be part of an INF deal.

Washington has maintained the ageing missiles are "third country" systems that are not negotiable.

But the dispute has caused new strains in Bonn, where opposition parties who fear the weapons will scuttle an arms deal have increased pressure for West Germany to give them up.

Two senior U.S. officials separately told Reuters they think that in the end Moscow will concede on the Pershing-1As.

Simes agreed. "If the Soviets understand that the United States means business, that the missiles are not on the table, this issue will disappear as quickly as it emerged," he said.

Many experts believe a compromise could involve the United States and West Germany agreeing not to modernise the missiles when they become obsolete in the early 1990s.

Architectural remains at Aqaba provide fresh food for thought to historians and archaeologists

This is the final part of a two-part article. The first part was published in yesterday's (Aug. 18) issue of the Jordan Times

Text and photos
By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

THIS year's excavations at Aqaba have exposed substantial architectural remains from the Abbasid/Fatimid period town (9th-11th centuries AD), providing historians with much new information and tourists with a major new site to visit in Aqaba.

As you walk onto the site from the corniche boulevard, you first come upon segments of the town wall, which was cleared along a length of over 80 metres. The wall varied in width from 2.6-2.8 metres, and was composed of two parallel stone courses filled in with rubble. The wall has been excavated to a height of 1.5 metres; but judging from the height of the excavated main gate, the walls probably stood about five metres high in antiquity.

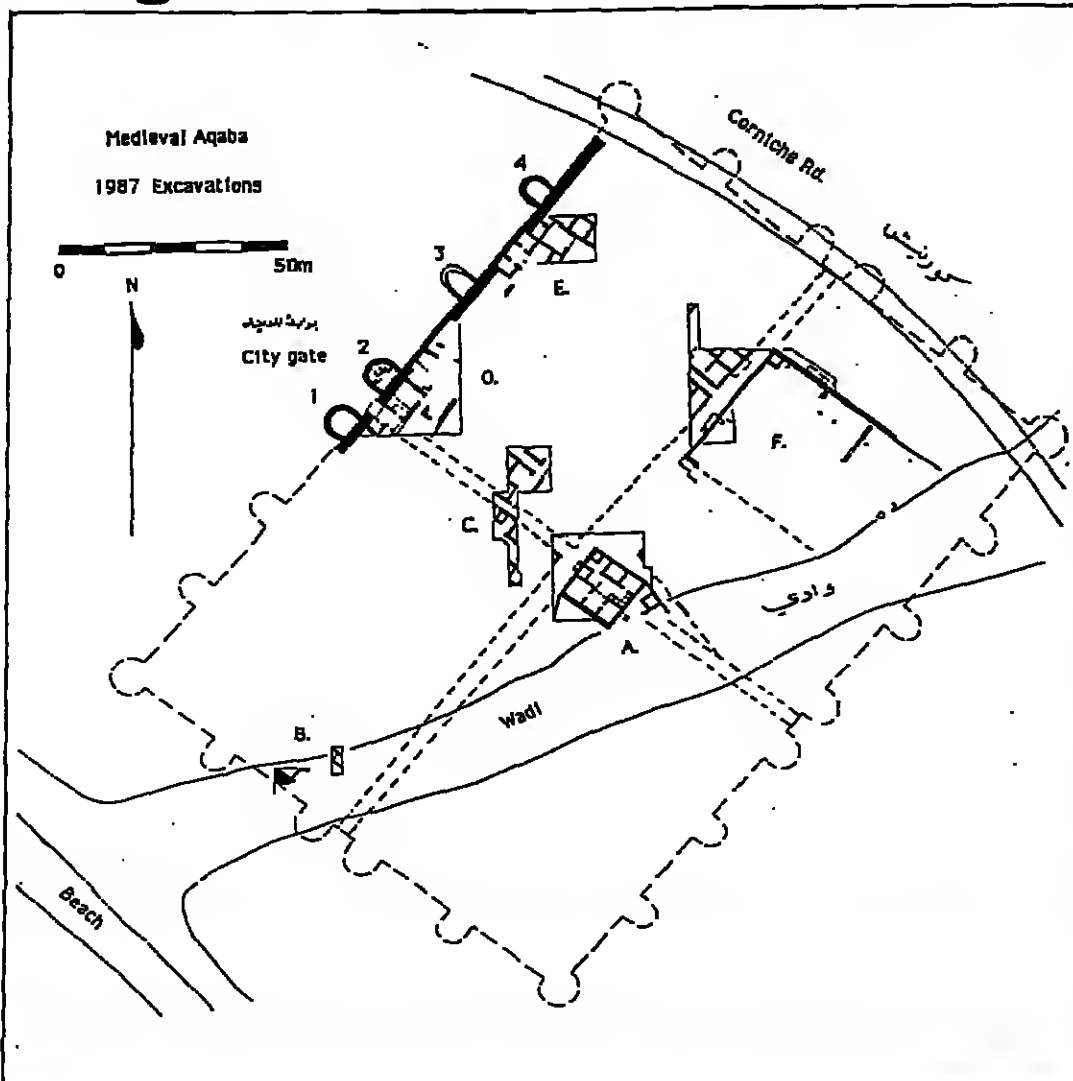
The wall was interrupted by semi-circular towers, four of which have been cleared along the north-west town wall, including the two towers immediately flanking the main gate. The towers do not seem to have had a defensive purpose, as they lack arrowslits, and the remains of an internal arch suggest there may have been a roof supporting a second storey. The town wall narrowed between the towers to form a thinner curtain wall, which accommodated buildings.

In area E (see plan), domestic structures were excavated near the city wall, including many walls constructed from re-used stone blocks, column drums and mud-bricks. One column drum was set in the centre of a "Samarra bayt," a popular house form during the Abbasid period.

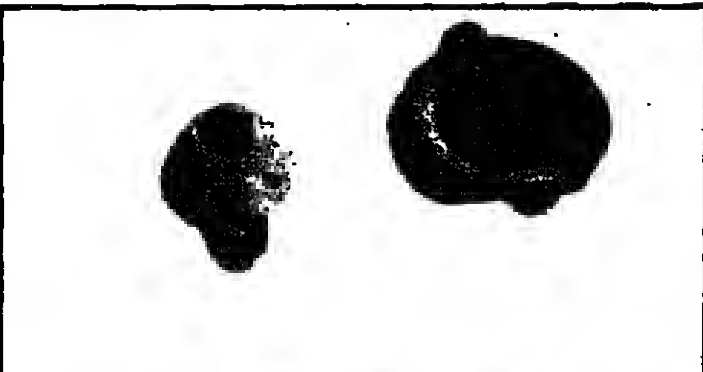
The main city gate in the centre of the north-west wall was excavated to 4.5 metres deep, but digging had to stop when the water table was reached. The bottom of the gate and the street level of the town were probably about five metres below the top of the gate. Dr. Whitcomb suggests.

The gate was rebuilt several times, mirroring the broad outline of the town's history. The original gate (Umayyad or Abbasid) was three metres wide, defined by a handsome round arch. It was surmounted by a nicely carved stone Kufic inscription from the Koran, parts of the Ayat Al Kursi for protection of the city. As the town's fortunes declined, the gate was narrowed, the street level was raised, and a narrower, pointed arch was erected in the filled-in gateway, replacing the previous round arch. In the town's final years, the entrance was filled in again to leave only a crude doorway, through which a basalt drain pipe exited the town to spill into the open space beyond the gate.

During the town's heyday, there was another internal wall parallel to the city wall, also adorned with a large arch, and the space between this arch and the arch of the main gate was later narrowed and occupied by shops.



A general view of the site of ancient Ayla, with the corner of the "large enclosure" exactly in the centre of the photo



Ceramic lamps of the Abbasid/Fatimid period of medieval Ayla

About 25 metres into the city from the main gate (area C), the excavators uncovered a typical residential district very close to the town centre, near the intersection of the two main streets. In the early years of the town, the structures excavated here may have formed part of a complex of merchants' homes, given the

good quality of their construction. The walls were excavated to a depth of 4.5 metres, where a street was uncovered. But as the town deteriorated, so did the dwellings. In the Fatimid period, the fine stones used for the earlier houses were replaced by mud-bricks and scrapier, re-used stones. At least 12

tawabeen, or bread ovens, were located in an irregular court adjacent to the later building — suggesting a less orderly domestic character of the later occupation. The tawabeen are probably Fatimid in date, and showed evidence of many fish bones and maybe some ginger root, perhaps evidence of the Spice Route from Indonesia and the Far East. The streets also became narrower with time, and by the Fatimid period appear to be no more than irregular alleyways — a far cry from the neat, formal town plan of the Umayyad and Abbasid periods, with intersecting streets and side streets, and stone-built domestic structures that lasted for many decades.

Another 25 metres into the town, east of area C, the excavators uncovered a large, impressive formal structure from the late Umayyad/Abbasid period. In what they called area A, they excavated down to 3.5 metres deep within a building that was rebuilt at least twice during its lifetime. The last configuration, now visible on the surface, shows a series of rooms around a small courtyard, with entrance stairs on the northwest and a staircase to an upper floor or the roof. One of the south rooms had fresco decorations painted on the wall, including very fragmentary floral motifs and geometric designs in red and black paint. The bottom of the wall was painted in imitation stonework. There were also several graffiti scratched on the wall in Kufic script, with both the script and the artifacts recovered in this room pointing to an Abbasid period date.

The structure was built in an earlier period, though, probably in the late Umayyad era, when the south-west wall of the building was dominated by a 3.5-metre-wide arch, corresponding to a parallel arch on the south-

east wall which led down to a fine plaster floor, below which all artifacts suggest to Dr. Whitcomb, that the earlier Umayyad building was a sort of pavilion, or even a tetrapylon (an elaborate structure at the intersection of streets) in the centre of the town. Another intriguing possibility, Dr. Whitcomb says, is that "while there is too little evidence for a palace, some association with a governor's residence is not unlikely."

Gold glass tesserae were also found in this building, suggesting that there may be some wall or floor mosaics below the floor of what is now being called simply the pavilion building.

The largest excavated area this year was area F, about 50 metres to the north-east of the pavilion building, and close to the corniche boulevard. Here were some residential buildings, alleyways and a main street, whose houses and alleys seem to have connected with the houses in area E (along the north-west city wall). The 2.5-metre-wide main street appears to have led to the gate in the north-east city wall — now thought to lie directly beneath the corniche.

East of the ancient street within the town walls, the excavators uncovered one of the site's most enigmatic structures — a large, rectangular building whose sides measure at least 30 x 40 metres, made of thick stone walls and mortar. There are several features along the north-east wall, parallel to the corniche, including a small corner room, a well-built platform and staircase associated with an elaborate drain, a small perpendicular wall, and three columns apparently still in their original place. The north-west wall had a second staircase in front of a plastered pilaster, in an area characterised by a gravel floor resting on 2.5 metres of fill. The walls here continued down to a plaster floor, below which all the excavated artifacts were from the Umayyad period. The south-west corner of the building was associated with two well-built platforms, possibly related to a corner entrance.

"This building has defied explanation so far," Dr. Whitcomb said, indicating it could be a mosque, a souq or other public area, a church, a formal building connected to a palace, or even an enclosure for keeping animals. "It's too early to tell what the structure served as, so for the moment we're simply calling it the large enclosure," Dr. Whitcomb said.

Among the artifacts found in it were large ceramic storage jars from the Abbasid period, some measuring 1.5 metres high, decorative metalwork for furniture, such as hinges and birds, and church elements. It would be quite an exciting find if this were an early Islamic mosque, but the orientation is not right for a mosque, and thus only future excavations will shed more light on this intriguing structure.

Excavations are expected to continue next year, after which the archaeologists will pause to write their detailed reports, while the Jordanian government will have to address the needs of conserving and perhaps even reconstructing parts of the site.

This year's excavation was administered jointly by the Department of Antiquities and the University of Chicago, and funded by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development.

Israeli best-seller takes a harsh look at West Bank occupation

By Gallina Vromen
Reuter

TEL AVIV — Twenty years after Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a new book that takes a harsh look at Israeli rule over Palestinians has become the literary success of the year in the Jewish state.

A journalistic account by young Israeli novelist David Grossman, "The Yellow Time," has stirred the consciences of Israelis who prefer to ignore their occupation of the region where 1.4 million Palestinians live in limbo.

Originally commissioned by the Israeli "Kotzer Rasbi" magazine for an issue marking the 20th anniversary of the 1967 Middle East war in June, the book has sold 40,000 copies — a best-seller in a country of four million people.

"The Yellow Time" has already been adapted into a play. Israeli censors initially forbade audiences under 18 from viewing it because of its painfully critical attitude to the effects of occupation on both Palestinians and Israelis. Under public pressure, censors lifted the ban.

Grossman, along with most reviewers, is quick to acknowledge the account contains few revelations. Literary critics praise the book for its penetrating style and lack of political dogmatism, while rightists call Grossman, 33, a self-hating Jew who needs to have his head examined.

Grossman, who speaks fluent Arabic, says that like most Israelis, he rarely ventured into the occupied territories until he was asked to write the account. "It was precisely because I didn't want to go that I said I would go... like all of us (Israelis), I managed not to know what is happening. That is very convenient, very easy," the bespectacled red-headed author said in an interview.

"Maybe people were ready to hear what I had to say because they know me from my novels and I am not associated with any particular political group," he added. Grossman works as an Israel Radio news reader and has written two acclaimed novels, "The Smile of the Lamb" and "See Under: Love."

In a rare honour for an Israeli

writer, the prestigious New Yorker magazine will publish an excerpt of the book in September and an English version of the book, retitled "The Yellow Wind," is to appear afterwards.

His despairing account of the Palestinians' profound hatred of Israeli rule and the 60,000 Jewish settlers who have moved into the territories highlights the complexity of the occupation and provides no easy answers.

"The book broke down the barricade that I hid behind out of fatigue and frustration in order to avoid the burden and the injustice of what goes on in the territories," Israeli author Dahn Ben-Amotz wrote in the newspaper Hadasot.

"Grossman dragged me to places I so much didn't want to go to," Ben-Amotz added.

Grossman begins his account by visiting the squalid Dheisheh refugee camp, 20 kilometres outside Jerusalem, where Palestinians dream of returning to their homes.

"These are people who hold in their hand only one real asset: The ability to wait. And I, as a Jew, can understand that well," he writes.

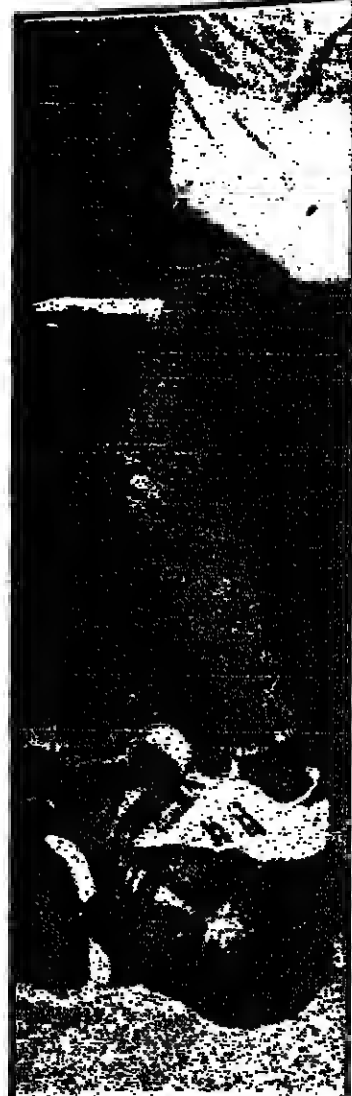
At a kindergarten in the camp, a Palestinian boy points a stick at him like a gun and tells him that he wants to shoot Jews. Grossman despairs over these "little children who are so good at hating me."

Returning from Dheisheh, he is struck by a kind of schizophrenia as he watches Israelis going about their daily business in downtown Jerusalem. "I walked among them like the bearer of evil tidings among the unaware," he writes.

In another passage, he explains the book title: "We have lived for 20 years on a teetering centre of gravity between hate and fright, in a desert void of emotion and conscience and the passing time evolves into a separate, forbidding entity banging above us like a suffocating layer of yellow dust."

His views have been anathema to many right-wingers. One of them, philosopher Israel Eldar, wrote that Grossman needed to undergo "psychological investigation."

The latest issue of the settler magazine "Nekuda" dedicated



A "routine security check" conducted by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank

three articles to disparaging the book and urged its readers to fight an epidemic of bleeding-heart "grossmanism."

But "The Yellow Time" has been hailed by Israelis disconcerted by their indifference and by some leftists who see it as a masterpiece that could spread their views.

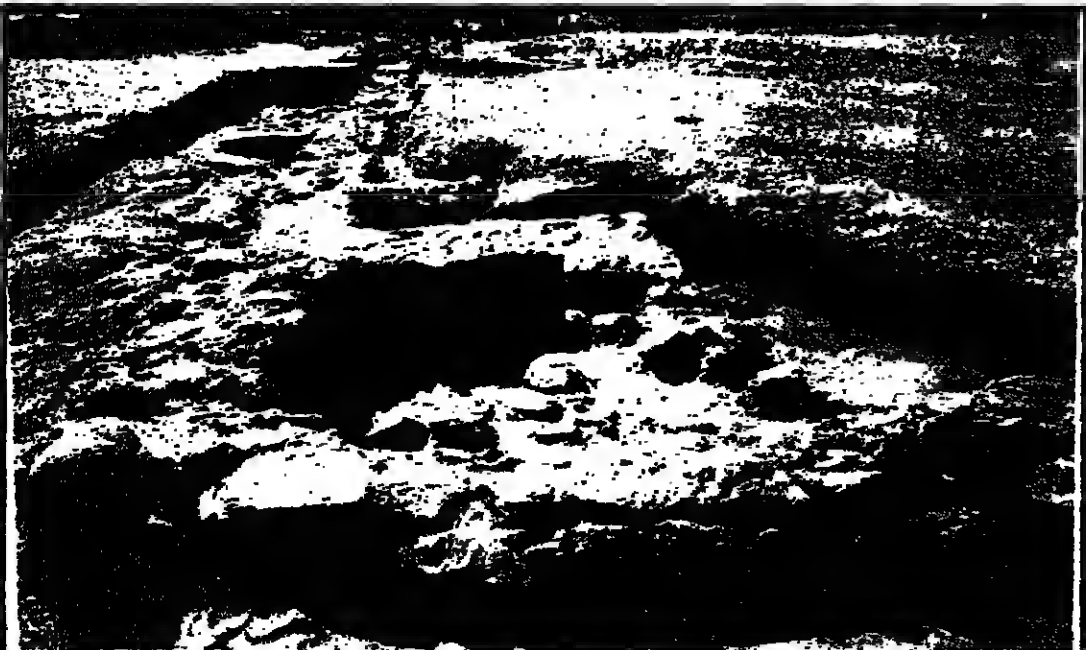
"I take off my Israeli-Palestinian keffiyeh to Grossman," wrote prominent Israeli-Arab novelist Anton Shammas.

"He comes to this story as one who can still convince the unconvinced... 'The Yellow Time' is a stunning journalistic piece, sickening and straining precisely because it does not answer the expectations of the left," he said in Ha'ir weekly.

In the end, Grossman leaves his reader with the burden of the future. "Is the feeling that the situation cannot possibly continue forever really a reasonable guarantee that it will eventually change?" he asks.



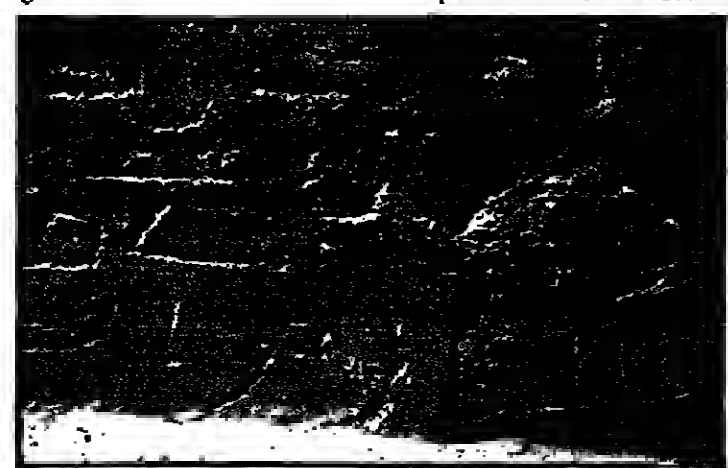
A five-metre fence that now surrounds the Dheisheh refugee camp in the West Bank



A close-up view of a corner and wall of the "large enclosure" building



Some of the fragments of the Ayat Al Kursi inscription in Kufic script which once surmounted the main gate of the town



Grffiti inscriptions in the "pavilion building," with some faint traces of fresco paintings from the Abbasid period

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Cubans win all 4 Pan Am bouts, 3 over U.S. boxers

INDIANAPOLIS (Agencies) — Cuban fighters continued their march towards Pan American Games gold medals on Tuesday night, displaying awesome power as they won all four of their quarter-final bouts — three against U.S. opponents.

The Cubans, the most successful boxers in the 26 year history of the Pan American Games, with 28 golds to 23 for the United States, won matches in the flyweight, lightweight, welterweight and middleweight divisions.

Angel Espinosa, Cuba's middleweight world champion, demonstrated some of his country's power with a first-round knockout of Darin Allen of the United States.

Espinosa's winning shot was a right hand cross to the head that crumpled Allen onto the canvas, where he remained for a few moments before being helped to his feet.

Cuba's Juan Lemus left no doubt Tuesday night that he is a dangerous force to be reckoned with among the welterweights.

For the second time in as many fights Lemus, 19, unloaded a tremendous right hand to the head of opponent Wayne

Richards of the U.S. Virgin Islands to immediately end his night's work.

Lemus destroyed four-time Jamaican champion Patrick Rose with a right hand in the second round of their fight last week. The referee needed just one look at the Wobly Richards to stop the fight.

In one of the three possible Cuban-U.S. matchups for gold medals, Lemus could fight Kenneth Gould for the welterweight title. Cuban and U.S. fighters also could meet in the bantamweight and the light-welterweight divisions.

The world welterweight champion Gould reached the semifinals with a unanimous decision over Osvaldo Checa of Panama. But Gould, who said he would wait until he reached the finals before thinking about Lemus, should probably start worrying about avoiding Lemus' right hand

now. Gould did not show anything near the power of Lemus.

In a lightweight contest, Cuba's Julio Gonzales completely outclassed Patrick Byrd of the United States to win a unanimous decision.

Gonzales, 21, landed far more punches and only Byrd's awkward, lunging style kept the Cuban from landing even more.

In a close flyweight battle, Cuba's Adalberto Regalado defeated Arthur Johnson of the United States in a bout which featured punishing in-fighting, sharp counter-punching, and disagreement by many at ringside over the decision.

In the opening moments of the first round, Johnson, 21, used his jab to keep Regalado away and then opened up with as many as five combinations to the head.

Regalado came back just before the bell to land a solid left to the head and landed several good rights and a left uppercut in the second round.

In the third round, Regalado switched tactics again to stay on the outside, but both fighters scored with flurries of combinations in the round.

Phoenix Sun centre, fiancée die in plane crash

PHOENIX, Arizona (AP) — Nick Venos, a third-year centre for the National Basketball Association (NBA)'s Phoenix Suns, died along with his fiancée in the crash of Northwest flight 255 from Detroit to Phoenix, family members said.

Vanos, 24, and his 25-year-old girlfriend, Carolyn Cohen, had flown to Michigan so Vanos could meet Ms. Cohen's parents.

Ms. Cohen's 24-year-old sister, Susan Orth, said her sister started dating Vanos six months ago after her first marriage ended in divorce.

Ms. Orth said Vanos wanted to meet his fiancée's parents after she had met his parents a couple of weeks earlier in California.

"Like I told my dad, at least she died happy," Ms. Orth said. "She was just so much in love with him. My parents knew it. They could tell her tone of voice that she was the happiest she's been since she left home and came (to Phoenix) six years ago."

Vanos, a crowd favourite in Phoenix and projected to be the Suns' starting centre next season, was among 156 people killed in the plane crash Sunday night.

"We are stunned, shocked and deeply saddened at the loss of Nick Vanos," Suns General Manager Jerry Colangelo said.

Cauthen powers to victory on Triptych

YORK, England (AP) — Steve Cauthen rode Triptych, the hot favourite, to a storming victory Tuesday in the Matchmaker International, one of Europe's richest flat races.

In driving rain, the American jockey timed his run to perfection and swept into the lead down the centre of the track in the closing stages of the 1 1/4-mile race.

His 5-year-old mare, backed at 13 to 8, was followed home, two lengths behind, by Ascot Knight, a 6 to 1 shot ridden by Walter Swinburn. Sir Harry Lewis, with John Reid on board, was third at 9 to 1.

It was Triptych's ninth victory in 28 starts and marked the 131st success this season for Cauthen, on course to become Britain's leading flat-race jockey for 1987.

Last year, Triptych came second in the race, the year before third. This time, the much-travelled horse made no mistake, waiting for the early pacesetters to tire and cruising through the pack with a burst of speed to win the 126,656-pound (\$202,649) first prize for French trainer Patrick Louis Biancone.

Officials at odds over dope testing at Pan Am Games

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Doubts have surfaced over whether every medalist is being dope tested at the Pan American Games following the first drugs-related disqualifications of the two-week event.

Pan American sports organisation (PASO) Chief Mario Vazquez Rana insisted PASO was following International Olympic Committee (IOC) policy and testing at least all individual medalist for illegal substances.

But PASO medical commission member Ronald Blankenbaker refused to support his claim.

He said it was never the goal of the commission to test every team medalist but that it was attempting to test as many individual medalists as possible.

"Our goal is to test as many medalists as we possibly can," he told Reuters.

Asked if every individual medalist had been tested, he replied: "I can't tell you that."

Vazquez Rana, revealing that six athletes — including three

medallists — had failed drugs tests in the first week of competition, told a news conference: "The commission is obliged to test every medal winner."

6 athletes fail drugs test

Six athletes, including U.S. silver medalist hammer thrower Bill Greco, have failed doping tests.

Vazquez Rana said the six included Green, a basketball player from the U.S. Virgin Islands, two Venezuelan weightlifters, a Colombian and a Nicaraguan.

The six tested positive following competition during the first week of the Pan American Games, he said.

Vazquez Rana told a news conference on Monday that medical officials had recommended the six be suspended from the games. However, he said it was up to each national Olympic committee to decide on specific sanctions.

The last Pan American Games, held in Caracas, Venezuela, in

Boxing champ becomes manager

NEW YORK (AP) — Some fight manager. No cigar, no beer belly, and he answers to "Sugar."

He also wears black slacks, a gray-black sports coat, a perfectly knotted tie and that winning smile that outdazzled the ring lights when he beat Duran, Hearns, Hagler.

He's Sugar Ray Leonard.

"He'll be a champion as a manager," Bobby Goodman, director of boxing of the Madison Square Garden, said Monday at a news conference. The occasion was the announcement that Leonard had entered into an agreement with the garden to

promote his pro boxing team, which has the sponsorship of a brewery.

Fight managers have been known to drink a beer, especially if someone else is buying, but Leonard has got to be the first one to be sponsored by a beer.

Leonard's pro stable currently consists of one fighter, but he has offered contracts to three others. The signed fighter is middleweight Shawn O'Sullivan, who is scheduled to appear in a 10-round fight Thursday night at the Felt Forum.

That puts O'Sullivan one up on his boss.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Bulgarian athlete given asylum by Turkey

ANKARA (R) — A top Bulgarian wrestler who fled his team in Canada is to be granted political asylum by Turkey, officials said Wednesday. Ethnic Turk Ilyas Sukruyev sought asylum from Turkey's Ambassador to Ottawa Kaya Toperi and was expected to arrive in Turkey in the next few days, they said. Sukruyev had been competing in the International Youth Championship in Vancouver under his Bulgarian name Ilya Mitev. Turkey and the human rights group Amnesty International have accused Bulgaria of oppression of its ethnic Turkish minority including enforced use of Slavonic names. Three other Bulgarian team members who fled earlier and asked Canada for asylum turned out not to be ethnic Turks, the officials said. Naim Suleymanoglu, one of the world's top weightlifters, defected to Turkey from Bulgaria last December while competing in Australia.

Racing pigeons to face dope tests

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dope testing, now commonplace in many sports to stop athletes using drugs to improve strength and stamina, is to be introduced into pigeon racing here. The Dutch Pigeon Racing Association (NPO) said Tuesday it was going to introduce random drug tests to catch birds which have been given the steroid hormone, cortisone, to make them fly faster. "The number of pigeon owners using the hormone has increased in the past two years," NPO medical advisor Hans van Der Sluis said. "Some owners say it makes birds fly faster but it has terrible side effects. We hope to stop it with the tests." More than 55,000 people race pigeons in the Netherlands, the NPO said, and a top bird can fetch up to 70,000 guilders (\$34,000) on the transfer market.

New record set for 3 channel crossings

DOVER, England (AP) — Philip Rush, a 23-year-old marathon swimmer from New Zealand, made a triple crossing of the English Channel in 28 hours and 21 minutes, chopping 10 hours and six minutes off the previous record, his coach said Tuesday. Rush, a financial services manager from Lower Hutt, broke four other speed records during his triple crossing and contemplated attempting a fourth crossing, said coach Tony Keenan. The only other person to have swum the English Channel three times in a row is Jon Ericson of the United States, a 26-year-old physical education teacher from Chicago who completed the marathon in 38 hours and 27 minutes in 1981. No one has ever made four crossings in a row. The channel is about 34 kilometres wide, although swimmers can cover greater distances depending on where they start and land.

Gross launches his defence of six swimming titles

STRASBOURG, France (R) — World record-holders Michael Gross and Kristin Otto questioned the pulse of the European Swimming Championships Tuesday as the highlight battles of the pool begin.

The swimmers enter the fray after the first two days of the eight-day championships devoted entirely to diving and water polo.

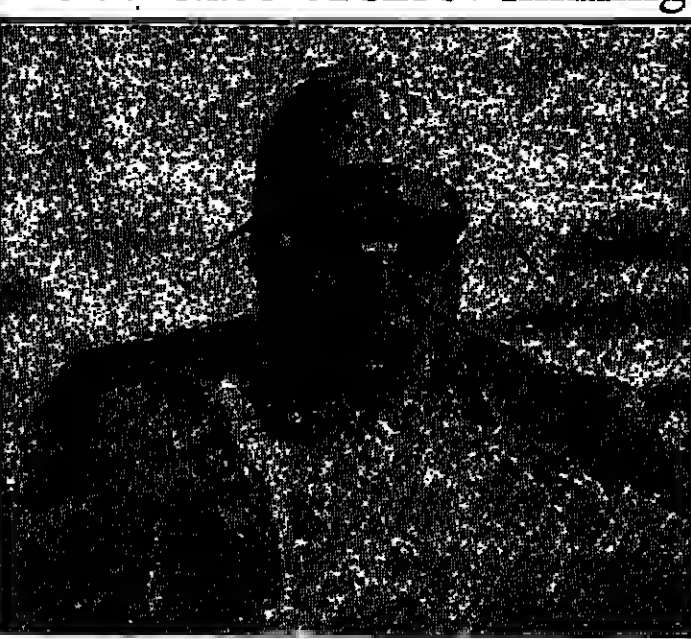
Dutch diver Daphne Jongejans won the first title with the women's springboard gold on Monday, and Austria's Niki Stajkovic, top qualifier in the men's springboard, aims for the second.

Five swimming titles are at stake, with world champion Otto Favourite to begin another East German spree in the women's 100 metres freestyle.

Only one women's title eluded the East Germans at the last European Championships in Sofia two years ago.

West German Gross launches his defence of six titles when he tackles the 200 metres freestyle in which his toughest rival could well be compatriot Thomas Fahrner.

Britain's Adrian Moorhouse defends his 100 metres breaststroke crown, knowing he is the



Adrian Moorhouse splashes out of water to win the 100 metres breaststroke at Crystal Palace earlier this month.

fastest European over the distance this year, but with west German Bert Goebel not far behind.

East Germany, looking for a flying start in the 100 freestyle

relay. But Romanian Tamara Costache will be a danger to Otto and Stellmach in the freestyle, and Costache's compatriot Noemi Lung could frustrate Kathleen Nord's ambitions to win her third straight European 400 individual medley crown.

Gross, who lost two months of training after injuring his right shoulder during weight training in March, knows it will be hard to repeat his six-title sweep of 1985. Fahrner has clocked the same 200 freestyle time as the world and Olympic champion this year.

Apart from Fahrner in the freestyle, Gross also recognises the danger of Britain's Andy Jameson in the 100 metres butterfly, one of two events for the West German on Wednesday along with the 4 x 200 metres freestyle relay.

"Last year Jameson was better than me," Gross said of the man who beat him to the bronze medal in the 1986 World Championships in Madrid.

"It's not really my event. There are so many swimmers who can swim faster than me."

Johnson bids for new world record in Zurich

ZURICH (R) — Canadian sprint ace Ben Johnson who equalled the fastest men's 100 metres ever at low altitude when he clocked 9.95 seconds in Cologne on Sunday, aims to break the world record at Wednesday's Zurich Grand Prix athletics meeting.

World record holder American Calvin Smith who timed 9.93 seconds at high altitude in Colorado Springs four years ago and finished second to Johnson in Cologne, is also in Wednesday's 100 and 200 metre races.

It will be a top-class field pushing Johnson as world and Olympic champion Carl Lewis of the United States and African champion and record holder Chidi Imoh of Nigeria will also take part but Britain's European champion Linford Christie has withdrawn with a leg injury.

Moroccan Said Aouita, who had planned to make an attempt on the world 1,500 and mile records here, is unlikely to take part.

Meeting organiser Res Bruegger told a news conference Monday night he had been in touch with Aouita.

"I had a long talk with him on the phone on Sunday," Bruegger said. "The news was not good. He has not been able to train fully since last Wednesday due to an inflamed nerve in his left leg."

"It is extremely doubtful whether he can run here or in the Rome world championships."



Ben Johnson

But Bruegger said even if Aouita could not run here he hoped he would be able to attend as a guest.

In the women's 100 metres, a Grand Prix event, Olympic champion American Evelyn Ashford, who set the world record of 10.76 seconds here three years ago, will have the chance to make up for a disappointing season so far.

The top class field includes her compatriots Diane Williams, the U.S. champion, Alice Brown and Gwen Torrence plus Jamaican sprint aces Merlene Ottey and

Grace Jackson.

Steve Cram, world 1,500 metres champion, heads a 25-strong British contingent while two world record holders, pole vaulter Sergei Bubka and hammer thrower Yuri Sedikh, make up the Soviet squad with European high jump champion Igor Paklin.

Paklin will compete against new world record holder Patrik Sjöberg of Sweden and other leading high jumpers including Olympic gold medalist Dietmar Moegenburg of West Germany, Canada's Commonwealth champion Milt Ottey and American Jim Howard.

Other world record holders expected in a programme jam-packed with exciting competitions are triple jumper Willie Banks of the United States, Bulgarians Ginka Sagoritschewa (100 metres hurdles) and Stefka Kostadinova (high jump) and American Jackie Joyner-Kersey (heptathlon and joint holder of the long jump record).

The East Germans are prominent absentees this year due to their national championships starting on Thursday.

Bruegger said despite the absence due to injury of athletes such as Sebastian Coe, Ingrid Kristiansen and Alberto Cova the meeting would again live up to its reputation as one of the best in Europe and perhaps in the world.

"We have had to turn down requests to participate from top class athletes. We could have organised a twin meeting if we wanted to. Our budget has exceeded two million Swiss francs for the first time," Bruegger said.

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Managing Director

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VAN NUYS BLVD.

Performances: 3.30, 6.15, 8.30, 10.30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 675571

9 1/2 WEEKS

Performances: 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 10.30

Cinema **RAGHADAN** Tel: 622198

POLICE STORY

Performances: 12.15, 2.15, 5.45, 8.15

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6025/35	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3295/3305	Canadian dollar
	1.8538/45	West German marks
	2.0880/90	Dutch guilders
	1.5355/65	Swiss francs
	38.51/54	Belgian francs
	6.1930/60	French francs
	1342/1343	Italian lira
	147.40/50	Japanese yen
	6.4700/50	Swedish crowns
	6.7675/7725	Norwegian crowns
	7.1300/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	455.80/456.30	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The broadly lower opening on Wall Street hurt share prices in London and helped send equities to near their day's lows, although dealers said business remained thin and was dominated by inter-professional trading.

The market was relieved by news that Standard Chartered did not after all plan a cash call to help fund its special provision for troubled debtor countries. Talk of a possible £500 million rights issue by the bank sent shares sharply lower late Monday and caused early jitters Tuesday in a market already nervous about U.K. economic data. By 1419 GMT the FTSE 100 index was 20.5 points off at 2,239.1, after an earlier low of 2,234.2.

Standard Chartered dropped 54p on Monday. On Tuesday the shares rallied, gaining 37p to 787.

The bank also announced a half-year pre-tax loss of £224 million after a £131 million profit in the same period last year. Dealers said this was in line with forecasts after the bank said recently it expected to make a "substantial reported loss." The figures included a total charge of £503 million for bad and doubtful debts.

Also affecting sentiment was Jaguar's pre-tax half-year profits of £45.7 million against £57.4 million in the first half of 1986. This was below forecasts, and the shares fell 21p to 564.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Cerroli Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Despite some confusion in your mind relating to another person, you will find that you can easily concentrate on home matters which will benefit you and your family.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Invite some friends into your home who you find to be very amusing. Watch your financial situation carefully.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't let a long-distance letter which you will receive spoil your mood today. Think positively.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get your assets and financial holdings well budgeted, then you can operate more easily and successfully.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Rely on your own judgment today, which is exceptionally sharp, and don't seek advice from those around you.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be alone with the one you love tonight, and don't let any unexpected visitors ruin your romantic evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Choose the friend who can be most helpful to you in business and get cracking. Don't let your mate interfere.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get rid of your doubts about a family friend, and tie up the loose ends of a vital credit or civic matter you've overlooked.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be open-minded and enjoy more outlets for your ideas, but don't permit boring routines to keep you busy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure to keep promises you have made and to pay all outstanding bills to the best of your ability.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can go along with the group in some new enterprise, but be very sure that you know what you're getting into.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you insist on nursing a worry which you have, you'll miss out on some great opportunities and good times.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Arrange for the social and recreational activities which interest you, but be very economical about your plans.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will grasp the concept of salesmanship at a very young age, so encourage this talent and slant the education along those lines. Try to teach your child not to be so sensitive, as the feelings will tend to be easily hurt. Always give clear instructions on how to proceed.

Syria cuts transit charges by 30%

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria Monday announced a 30 per cent cut in port charges for goods in transit.

An official announcement said the cut is retroactive from Aug. 12 and will be effective for the next 12 months.

The announcement in the Official Gazette said the measure applies to all goods transiting through Syria to other countries. It gave no figures.

Wall Street stocks close over 2,700

NEW YORK (R) — Wall Street set another round of records Monday with bullish investors vying with profit-takers and finally pushing the Dow Jones average above 2,700 at the close for the first time.

The average of 30 top-flight industrial stocks rose 15.14 points to 2,700.57 and analysts said the five-year-old bull market should now be poised to move still higher.

The 2,700 mark was briefly scaled three times in trading last week, only to be pulled back by profit-taking. Monday's new peak was the 50th record close for the Dow Jones this year.

Just seven days ago, the Dow Jones index broke the 2,600 mark and its rush to 2,700 is the quickest 100-point milestone advance ever made by the Dow. The old record for passing from one century mark to the next was 11 days, when the index rose from 2,000 to close at 2,100 on Jan. 19.

Throughout the day investors selling stock to cash in on the profits earned since mid-May, when the Dow was some 500 points lower, kept knocking down the index but the buyers prevailed.

"The market kept edging up and at the closing bell passed 2,700 — that is a very, very bullish development," said trader John Havens of Morgan Stanley.

U.S. oil rig count rises to 1,000 mark

HOUSTON (R) — The U.S. drilling rig count jumped 15 last week to a total of 998, compared with 738 working rigs at this time last year, Baker Hughes Inc. said Monday.

A combination of steady oil prices and increasing drilling interest in the Gulf of Mexico should push the rig count over 1,000 by the end of the month, an economist for the Houston-based drilling supply company said.

"In the next couple of weeks the U.S. rig count should break 1,000, which is psychologically important to the market," said Mr. Ike Kerridge.

"We expect the rig count to continue to rise until December when it hits at least 1,200." The weekly report is closely watched for hints about the health of the U.S. oil industry. If oil companies believe that the outlook for oil prices is strong, or at least stable, they are more willing to spend money to search for oil and gas.

The cut followed complaints by transit companies about the high charges in Syrian ports.

The move is also seen as an effort to improve the competitiveness of Syrian ports with the Suez Canal, attract more traffic and increase Syria's foreign exchange earnings.

Syria's 1987 budget reflected a foreign exchange crisis with expenditure cut by almost five per cent in nominal terms compared with 1986.

But if the inflation rate currently running at more than 30 per cent is taken into account, the decrease is considerably greater.

Syria has been suffering from a major economic crisis for some time and a chronic shortage of foreign exchange.

This is largely the result of a decline in foreign aid, on which the Syrian economy had become heavily dependent in the past.

Petroleum products could be financed at a later stage, the study said.

Employees shut down Lebanon state television

BEIRUT (AP) — The two channels of Lebanon's state-run television both went blank Tuesday as TV employees began an open-ended strike for improved pay and conditions.

Most of Tele Liban's 420 employees started sit-in protests at the stations two channels, one in predominantly Christian east Beirut and the other in the capital's western, mainly Muslim sector.

The employees union said in a statement the strike will be general and that no programmes will be broadcast by either of the two channels during its duration.

"The strike will continue until our demands for better wages and working conditions are met," the statement said.

State-run Beirut radio went off the air on Friday. A source at the information ministry said the station was closing down due to the

lack of funds for its maintenance.

Four independent television stations and more than a dozen radio stations operated by rival militia factions continue to operate in the country which is fractured by 12 years of civil war.

The television strike and the closure of the radio station leaves the national information agency, a daily newsletter in Arabic, English and French, as the only government-controlled news outlet still operating in Lebanon.

The silencing of the government-owned radio and TV stations is the result of an escalating economic crisis, caused by the collapse of the Lebanese lira against foreign currencies.

Once the most stable currency in the Middle East, the Lebanese lira fell from 2.5 to the U.S. dollar at the outbreak of the civil war to 229 to the dollar on Tuesday, a record low.

Bankamerica and Japanese banks discuss financial pact.

TOKYO (AP) — Bankamerica Corp. of the United States and 23 major Japanese banks are negotiating a \$250 million financial package to help rebuild the ailing U.S. bank's capital base, an official of Bankamerica's Tokyo subsidiary said Tuesday.

The agreement tentatively calls for the six largest Japanese banks to provide \$150 million in subordinated capital notes, said Bankamerica spokesman Eiko Taira.

The remaining \$100 million in funding would be shared among other banks participating in the deal, he said.

Officials of nine major Japanese banks met to discuss terms of a possible agreement between the banks, Tuesday's Asahi Shimbun said. Officials at Japanese banks engaged in the negotiations would not comment on the talks.

The 23 Japanese banks received a \$350 million capital infusion proposal, of which \$250 million consists of subordinated debt, from Bankamerica chief financial officer, Mr. Frank Newman, in mid-June.

Bankamerica is the United States' second-largest banking concern and is engaged in financial restructuring aimed at stemming continued losses.

Meanwhile, a group of 49 Japanese local banks on Monday signed a contract with the World Bank to lend 15 billion yen (\$100 million) to be used as part of Japan's pledge to recycle some of its trade surplus to developing countries.

The agreement followed a similar accord reached last Monday between the World Bank and another group of Japanese city banks, which agreed to lead 20 billion yen (\$131.9 million) to the World Bank, said the official, Mr. Makoto Honda of the Bank of Yokohama.

Oil prices dip below \$18 mark despite Gulf tension

LONDON (R) — Apparently defying logic, oil prices are falling in spite of tension in the Gulf. But market experts say that, even if the Gulf was shut, other producers could turn up the taps and refiners could draw on stocks to make up the five to six million barrels — only about 10 per cent of total world demand — that daily pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

Meanwhile, they add, the OPEC group has been producing above its self-imposed output ceiling. Traders now think that another bout of oversupply may be in prospect and Gulf jitters no longer are enough to keep prices high.

"There's nothing to support the market. It's over-supplied," said a trader in Tokyo where the free market price of the Middle East benchmark Dubai crude oil dipped Tuesday below OPEC's reference price of \$18 a barrel.

The question now is not whether a new 1970s-style "oil shock" is in prospect, but whether the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is losing its battle to peg prices at the \$18 a barrel mark.

Prices dipped from \$20 as low as \$9 a year ago. OPEC only got them back to around \$18 this year by mandating output quotas for its members.

Previous OPEC bids to buoy prices by curbing output have foundered as cash-pinned sellers cheated on their quotas. And

this, some analysts say, may be what is happening again now. As soon as the output curbs began to bite, tightening the market and nudging prices up, several members could no longer resist the temptation to sell just a little bit more.

Industry estimates put August output by OPEC at between 19 and 20 million barrels daily. Its ceiling is 16.6 million barrels.

A consensus among OPEC analysts, however, is that it is too soon to write off its bid to regain control of the market which it grabbed during the 1973 Arab oil embargo but lost when it was overwhelmed last summer by the glut of the 1980s.

The Gulf crisis, they say, tended to "overheat" free market prices which are now easing back to reflect realities of supply and demand.

"The markets may be jittery, but OPEC members and top oil company forecasters alike show no signs of panicking about current high levels of production," says Petroleum Intelligence

Weekly.

The industry newsletter said many refiners were still willing to absorb surplus oil into their stocks as a precaution against trouble in the Gulf, also, consumer demand was buoyant.

An OPEC official, who spoke to Reuters on condition he was not named, said there was some cause for concern. He saw some risk that political tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran, key members, might split the group.

But, on balance, he felt that OPEC learned its lessons when prices crashed last summer. If things got so bad that an emergency OPEC conference were needed, members would probably be scared enough to resolve to keep their quotas.

Mr. Peter Nicol, oil analyst with London brokerage Smith New Court, agreed. "Memories of last summer are still fresh in OPEC's mind," he said.

"We might see another dollar off the price but we expect OPEC to let production fall."

He noted that the recent rise in OPEC output this year was "demand-led." It had been less a case of OPEC members scrambling to sell than of oil companies anxious to build their stocks, because of the Gulf situation and because they thought OPEC might raise its reference price to \$20 this winter.

"We do not tend to think that OPEC lost the battle yet," Mr. Nicol said.

South Korea registers high growth

SEOUL (Agencies) — Propelled by strong exports, South Korea's economy grew 15.3 per cent in 1987's first half, but officials said Monday economic progress would be slow in the next six months due to protracted labour troubles.

Preliminary figures by the Bank of Korea showed South Korea's gross national product (GNP) in the second quarter grew 15 per cent over the same quarter a year earlier. That brought the six-month growth rate to a 15.3 per cent in real terms.

The GNP growth rate was 15.6 per cent in the first quarter.

Last year, South Korea registered a 11.6 per cent GNP growth in the first half — 10.5 per cent in the first quarter and 12.5 per cent in the second quarter.

The high economic growth was attributed to brisk exports and investments. The GNP measures the total value of a nation's output of goods and services.

Led by a 17.9 per cent gain in the mining and manufacturing sector, the nation's total industrial output grew 14.3 per cent in the first half, compared with 11.9 per cent in the same period of last year.

But bank officials expressed worry that the pace of South Korea's economic growth in the third quarter would slow because of the labour unrest that began in July after the government agreed to sweeping political reforms.

The labour turmoil entered its fourth week Monday with no

signs of early settlements. It would set back the nation's effort to attain an 11.3 per cent growth in GNP for the whole year, bank officials said.

"It is feared that the labour unrest, if protracted, would seriously damage our economy in the next quarters, although there are some indicators that the Korean economy would continue to pick up," said one bank official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Fears also have been expressed that South Korea's economy would be affected by steady U.S. pressure to further open its market and let the Korean currency appreciate.

Meanwhile, one hundred thousand workers and supporters rallied in Ulsan for higher pay and free unions at South Korea's top exporter as the government despatched a senior official to mediate in the dispute.

Twenty-five thousand workers of the Hyundai industrial group were led by two company fire engines, a forklift and a crane as they paraded through this sooty southern city, Hyundai's main industrial base.

The parade was raucous but mostly peaceful and was cheered by 75,000 supporters from the sidelines.

The day's protest ended with a rally of 40,000 workers and supporters in a public stadium.

Crowd estimates were made by journalists on the scene. There

were no official estimates.

It was the second day of demonstrations against Hyundai, which sparked the protest when it closed six plants in the face of a union strike threat. Two other Hyundai factories here had been closed earlier by strikes.

Hyundai makes cars, ships and heavy machinery and also operates electrical, woodworking and precision-tool factories in Ulsan.

The government despatched Labour Vice-Minister Han Jin-Hee to Ulsan and a ministry spokesman said he would arrange a meeting between labour and management on Wednesday.

The spokesman said Labour Minister Lee Heun-Ki has urged Hyundai founder and honorary chairman, Mr. Chung Ju-Yung, to accept workers' demands as much as possible.

Mr. Chung told state radio Tuesday Hyundai was ready to settle with the workers, but did not elaborate on acceptable terms.

"I'm confident the dispute can be settled within the next week because the workers are faithful and of high intelligence," he said.

The 72-year-old Chung was burned in effigy by the workers at protests on Tuesday and Monday.

Government officials have considered the Ulsan confrontation the most serious of the disputes sweeping the country since a settlement could set a nationwide pattern.

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon

ACROSS

- Even it for short
- Haric tales
- Repetitively
- Hit hard
- One of the Antilles
- Shoshonean
- Literary collection
- Sophia —
- Rye fungus
- Certain contestants
- Fishy prof.
- Alibi
- Moistly
- Deeply felt
- Copter kin
- Of wings
- Albert of the screen
- Fish sauce
- Whitened's Becker
- Intifada
- Power
- Swamp
- Saffron
- Tropical
- Moment
- Sound system
- Lack of vitality
- Make sport of
- "Uses of a"
- Hobnob
- Constitution
- One — time
- Plain to see
- Mont or Mel
- Fabled bird
- Home for a champion
- Sugar source
- India —

1887 Tribune Media Services, Inc. Yesterday's Puzzle Solver:

DOWN	1 "Sound of Music" name	2 Asian capital	3 Ring stones	4 Sage plant	5 Vespertine mating town
6 Spirit guide	7 Eve's son	8 Sikh religious leader	9 Handle	10 Bibliophile's find	11 Harbor boat
12 DOE command	13 Sette	21 Recording rooms	22 See eagle	23 Vedic god	24 Willow tree
25 Requires place	26 Fauna and	30 Galle	31 Gr. letter	32 Trojan	34 Shding door
35 Indonesian islands	36 Stalom	43 It. port	47 Hunter or	48 Sp. ruler	49 Sp. ruler
50 Lots and lots	51 Woody's boy	52 Annulus	53 Protected	54 Delude	55 Gripe
56 Howard or	57 Barry				

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henn Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

STYIE

NIXEV

KILLEY

LAYSIE

He never told the truth and he never will

WHAT LIARS DO AFTER THEY DIE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: TACKY FENCE COOKE SHREWD
Answer: He wore a pig's vest in order to keep this — A CHECK ON HIS WAIST

Filipino troops attack kidnappers after release of 16 hostages

CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines (R) — The military stepped up a hunt for Muslim rebel kidnappers in the southern Philippines after they freed 16 hostages.

Southern Army Command spokesman Col. Anthony Elias told reporters the Muslim guerrillas were being pursued because they "cannot go scot-free. Otherwise, we won't see an end to all these kidnappings."

The guerrillas free the 12 students, three staff and a professor of Mindanao State University unharmed Monday night after holding them for 10 days on Balot Island.

Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos, meanwhile, warned Communist and Muslim rebels to surrender before a government amnesty expires on Aug. 28. He said his troops would launch a major offensive after that date.

"The will to fight and especially the will to win have been intensified and reinforced. Unless the rebels ... take advantage of

the generous offer (of amnesty), they would eventually feel the pinch of the full military might," he said during an inspection tour of military camps in the south.

The hostages' release coincided with a deadline set by the military on Aug. 14 for the surrender of the rebels on Balot. The military had surrounded the island with gunboats and deployed hundreds of soldiers in the area.

The kidnappers had demanded a 25 million peso (\$1.5 million) ransom from the university, which refused to pay.

Troops began the pursuit Monday after the hostages were taken off the island and intensified the hunt Tuesday. The rebels are believed to be members of a breakaway faction of the separatist Moro National Liberation Front.

The 16 kidnap victims were reported well by a military report from nearby Marawi City. The report said some hostages complained about having had little food in captivity and fears of a military assault on the island.

Ten Muslim rebels were killed on Friday when they tried to break through a military blockade around Balot.

The military said a police officer and a militiaman had died in rebel attacks on two police stations on the central island of Negros.

The government's drive against Communist rebels drew a sharp protest from a church leader.

"The Cory we knew as a champion of ... peace and a defender of human rights has become a warrior who unsheathed the sword of war against her people," Bishop Julio Labayan said.

A senior officer offered "dead or alive" rewards Tuesday for the capture of Muslim guerrillas heading a kidnap gang in south-

ern Philippines.

Brigadier-General Jesus Hermosa said the military had put 10,000-peso (\$500) reward each on the heads of two Muslim guerrilla leaders known as Kumanders Menor and Taha.

"We want them dead or alive," Gen. Hermosa, regional military commander, told a news conference hours after the group freed the 16 hostages.

He also threatened to sack Muslim army officers he said were ineffective against the co-religionists.

Gen. Hermosa, angered by the unchecked kidnappings, said he planned to sack Muslim military officers who had become "ineffective against the kidnappers."

Pointing to Colonel Carlos Pena, the provincial military commander, Gen. Hermosa said: "I am giving him 100 days to arrest the kidnappers. Otherwise, he will be relieved from his post, as well."

Afghan rebels training in U.S., TASS says

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet News Agency TASS said Tuesday that the Reagan administration had carried out secret training of Afghan guerrillas on U.S. territory.

TASS quoted James Greitz, a retired lieutenant-colonel of U.S. Special Forces, as saying a representative of the Reagan administration asked him early last year to organise accelerated training for several Afghan rebel groups in the Nevada Desert near Las Vegas.

The course consisted of 55 "subjects" and included secret operations, intelligence, communications, demolition, anti-aircraft measures and man-to-man fighting," TASS said.

It said the U.S. Defence Department had provided modern equipment and hardware from the Fort Ord military base in California and a coast guard airfield in Brooklyn, New York.

TASS quoted Col. Greitz as saying instructors of the rebels were helped by two men who had connections with the office of the U.S. undersecretary of state for security assistance and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and by a State Department consul-

tant. TASS described Col. Greitz as a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Special Forces who had led more than 100 "special operations" during the U.S. military involvement in Vietnam.

It quoted him as saying one of the aims of the operation was to try to unite separate rebel groups into a single front.

Afghan guerrillas have received military aid from the United States, Pakistan, Iran and other countries in their war against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

The Soviet Union has previously accused the United States of sending advisers to Pakistan, where many rebel groups are based, but the TASS report was believed to be the first Soviet report of Afghan guerrilla training on U.S. soil.

The Soviet Union has 115,000 troops in Afghanistan helping the Afghan army fight the rebels, according to Western experts.

Moscow says it will withdraw the troops when countries it accuses of waging an "undeclared war" on Afghanistan end their aid to the rebels.

Officials seek cause of Detroit air crash

DETROIT (Agencies) — Officials probing the crash of a Northwest Airlines MD-80 aircraft in which all 152 people on board died say they had turned up no immediate sign of engine failure or sabotage.

John Lauber, a member of the five-person inquiry by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), told a news conference Monday that investigators had talked to more than two dozen witnesses of the crash at Detroit Metropolitan Airport on Sunday.

"We have no evidence at this point of an in-flight fire in either engine," he said. Nor were there signs of major engine failure, he added.

Asked about the possibility of sabotage, Mr. Lauber said: "We have no evidence of that at this

time." Northwest Airlines has been plagued by labour problems since it acquired Republic Airlines last October and became one of the country's larger carriers.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has investigated alleged incidents of damage to equipment and to property at Northwest facilities in Detroit and Minneapolis.

Mr. Lauber also said there was no evidence of problems with the twin-engine McDonnell Douglas MD-80, an updated version of the DC-9. The Pratt and Whitney JT8D engines on the plane were a new type and had not before been involved in a plane crash.

Mr. Lauber said the official death toll was 152, comprising all 144 passengers — two of whom were infants travelling on the laps

of adult — six crew and two off-duty pilots.

A 4-year-old girl was the miraculous survivor of the air disaster. Cecilia Cichan, who was listed in critical condition Tuesday with third-degree burns over 99 per cent of her body, was identified as a passenger on flight 255 by her grandfather, who recognised her chipped tooth and purple nail polish, officials said.

"Her mother shielded her, and that is what saved her," said the grandfather, Anthony Cichan of Pennsylvania.

The girl's parents and 6-year-old brother were killed in Sunday night's crash of the McDonnell Douglas MD-80, which occurred in clear weather. The airline released a partial list of passengers and crew members killed in the crash. It contained no foreigners.

3rd of U.K. septuplets dies

LIVERPOOL, England (R) — A third of the septuplets born to a 27-year-old woman died Tuesday and the four others were fighting for their lives, doctors in this northern English town said.

The four girls and three boys together weighed only nine pounds and half an ounce (four kg) when they were delivered by Caesarian section on Saturday.

A son Liam, the first born and the biggest at one pound and 10 ounces (74 kg), died on Tuesday morning. His sister Leah died Monday.

The fourth of the seven babies to be born, a son weighing just one pound (45 kg), died within half an hour of the birth at the Liverpool Maternity Hospital.

A hospital spokesman said the remaining four babies were very sick and were still breathing with the help of ventilators.

Police on alert following death of Rudolf Hess

BERLIN (AP) — Bonn officials have warned police to be on guard for outbreaks of right-wing violence following the death of Rudolf Hess, who had been the last surviving leader of Nazi Germany.

Wolf-Ruediger Hess, the Nazi leader's son, flew to West Berlin early Tuesday to make arrangements to retrieve his father's body for burial, a family spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman, who talked to the Associated Press from the Hess son's office in Munich on the condition of anonymity, said the family was still working out final details of the funeral arrangements.

The Hess family lawyer, Alfred Seidl, told the AP on Monday

that Hess had wanted to be buried at his family's plot in Wunsiedel in north eastern Bavaria. He did not give further details.

Right-wing extremists gathered outside Spandau prison to mourn his last inmate.

On Tuesday, the mass-circulation Bild newspaper of Hamburg trumpeted Hess' death with a banner, front-page headline, while the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper put it in column on the far left-hand side of the front page.

"Hess died at age 93," Bild said in its headline.

Bild reported that Hess suddenly became seriously ill after lunch on Monday, and then suffered a massive stroke.

Venezuela asks Colombia to withdraw warship

CARACAS (R) — Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi has urged Colombia to recall to base a warship at the centre of a territorial dispute.

Mr. Consalvi said Colombia's corvette Caldas had left Venezuelan waters, but added: "We hope this corvette will return to its base."

Venezuela has said the corvette intruded into its waters in a "provocation" and put its military high command on alert.

Colombia replied the Caldas

was in Colombian waters. It added the Gulf of Venezuela boundaries were not well delineated.

President Jaime Lusinchi had meetings earlier with military and political leaders to discuss the dispute over boundaries in the Gulf, shared by both nations.

Joao Baena Soares, secretary-general of the Organisation of American States (OAS), sent messages Monday to both countries calling for a peaceful resolution of differences, the official news agency Venpres said.

"I understand there is a delicate situation in the Gulf of Venezuela which could threaten the traditionally good relations between both countries," Mr. Venpres quoted him as saying.

According to papers in both nations, Venezuela and Colombia have sent military reinforcements to the border region after the Caldas entered the Venezuelan Gulf early this month.

Leading Brazilian poet dies

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Brazilian poet Carlos Drummond de Andrade, an internationally known leader of the country's Modernist Movement, has died after a heart attack. He was 85 years old.

Mr. Drummond de Andrade, famous worldwide for collections of his modernistic poetry, had been hospitalised in Rio since Saturday after suffering a serious heart attack. He died at 9:30 p.m. Monday (2330 GMT) of respiratory failure, a hospital spokesman said.

It was the poet's second heart

attack in less than a year. Mr. Drummond de Andrade, considered his country's most important contemporary poet, was born in 1902 in Itaboraí, Minas Gerais state, located 290 kilometres north west of Rio de Janeiro.

Along with other Brazilian modernist artists in the 1920s, he denounced the infiltration of European culture into Brazilian art and literature. He was known as the first poet to use a contemporary and specifically Brazilian language, breaking with the flourishes of classical literature.

Panamanians hold anti-Noriega rally

PANAMA CITY (R) — More than 5,000 people sang and danced in a fiesta-like protest against the Panamanian government but an opposition call for a general strike was only partly heeded.

The demonstration was the latest in a wave of protests calling for the ouster of military chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega, considered the nation's de facto ruler and accused by opponents of corruption, political murder and electoral fraud.

Soldiers armed with anti-riot gear took up positions in the Plaza Porras in central Panama City but withdrew before the rally.

Carlos Abadía, one of several leaders of the opposition National Civic Crusade, who addressed the crowd said: "There will be no freedom and justice until the military returns to its proper role and gets rid of its corrupt leader Noriega."

Most of the mainly middle class crowd wore white, the colour adopted by the opposition movement, and waved white handkerchiefs, jumped, danced and chanted rhyming slogans.

Leaflets urged Panamanians to boycott the government-run National Lottery, not to buy luxury goods or pro-government newspapers, avoid shops that did not support the Civic Crusade and not to bet on horses.

President Eric Del Valle, considered a figurehead leader, owns several race horses.

On Monday a general strike slowed down businesses but failed to shut down the city. Some banks in the financial district opened but many employees did not turn up for work. About half the district's shops were closed.

A key Latin American finance centre and strategically important because of the Panama Canal, Panama has been hit by a series of protests and business strikes since early June.

U.S. report urges trips to moon, Mars

WASHINGTON (R) — American astronauts must return to the moon and colonise Mars in a drive to recover from the Challenger shuttle disaster, a report on the crippled U.S. space programme has urged.

Astronaut Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, made the recommendations in a report on future space projects that should be undertaken by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

She was asked to conduct the study after the January 28, 1986, explosion of the space shuttle Challenger that killed all seven crew members.

Several unmanned U.S. missions have also failed since then and America's space programme has come to a standstill.

"In the aftermath of the Challenger accident, reviews of our space programme made its shortcomings starkly apparent," Mr. Ride said in a report to James Fletcher, head of the space agency. It was released Monday by NASA.



Sally Ride

Pointing to the Soviet Union's use of orbiting space stations and its plans to explore Mars with robots, Ms. Ride said: "The United States has clearly lost leadership in these two areas, and is in danger of being surpassed in many others during the next several years."

Her report called for placing U.S. astronauts on the moon by the year 2000 with the assignment of building a scientific outpost there.

The report said that "by 2010, up to 30 people would be productively living and working on the lunar surface for months at a time."

It also called for three one-year, round-trip voyages to Mars by astronauts early in the 21st century.

The astronauts would spend two weeks exploring the red planet. The objective of the trips would be the eventual establishment of a U.S. colony on Mars.

"A successful Mars initiative would recapture the high ground of world space leadership and would provide an exciting focus for creativity, motivation, and pride of the American people," Ms. Ride wrote.

In releasing the report, Mr. Fletcher said it had "contributed strongly to a process that will determine the goals and directions of the nation's civil space activities."

"Ms. Ride is soon to leave the U.S. space agency to join a private research group."

Nicaragua reiterates support for peace plan

MANAGUA (R) — The Nicaraguan government has repeated its support of a Central American peace accord but said the United States was determined to undermine the agreement.

A statement by the nine-man Sandinista National Directorate said Washington, "in alliance with reactionary and hawkish groups of Central America," was determined to boycott the accord signed Aug. 7 in Guatemala City.

"We express our confidence that the people and governments of the region will know how to face up to (U.S.) pressures and threats so that the agreement is strictly and simultaneously complied with," the statement said.

The peace accord, signed by the leaders of five Central American nations, calls for ceasefires in the region's rebel wars by Nov. 7.

It sets the same date as the deadline for "democratisation" throughout the region, with provisions for internationally-supervised elections and an end to outside support for guerrillas, including the contra rebels backed by the United States who are fighting to oust Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

The Reagan administration has said it will seek more aid for the contras from Congress unless Nicaragua establishes democratic reforms before Sept. 30.

In Monday's statement the Sandinistas said an end to U.S. support of the contras was "an indispensable condition for a solid and permanent peace in Central America."

Government officials here have indicated that the peace accord's

call for a democratic opening in Nicaragua will go unheeded as long as the contras continue operating with U.S. support out of their bases in neighboring Honduras.

In Washington, senior U.S. diplomats headed back to their posts in Central America Tuesday carrying Washington's objections to a regional peace plan but prepared to work on making it acceptable, U.S. officials said.

The heads of the U.S. embassies in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua were summoned to Washington for a day-long strategy session Monday to help determine the U.S. position on an accord signed in Guatemala.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the discussions with senior administration officials mainly involved a detailed analysis of the pact signed by the five Central American nations.

"The administration has settled into the attitude that there are gaps in the agreement, that it is a starting point and not a final document," one said.

"We now have to work on the mechanics and see if we can develop a peace treaty that works."

The envoys were due to meet foreign ministers of four of the countries — the exception being Nicaragua — to put across American ideas on the plan, the officials said.

The foreign ministers of the five states are due to begin a two-day meeting Wednesday to start work on putting the Guatemala accord into action.

The United States has many objections to the plan, which calls

for a ceasefire within 90 days between governments and rebels in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

"Our fundamental concern is to avoid any irreversible actions regarding military pressure on the Sandinistas until they have acted irreversibly to meet the commitments to democracy they have just made," the State Department said.

Diplomats who follow U.S. Central American policy closely said they were sceptical that Washington was prepared to work for a peace treaty.

"It looks to me more of an attempt not to be seen as the party that sank the best chance we have seen for peace," one said.

The diplomats, who also asked not to be identified, said the shock resignation last Friday of Philip Habib as President Reagan's special envoy to Central America appeared to diminish any U.S. commitment to a negotiated settlement.

"He thought the time had come for diplomacy and was told no by the White House, that Washington was not going to take the initiative on this one," one said.

"The (U.S.) plan now is to give the impression of action while playing for time until the past folds. It's a very delicate balancing act that's going on right now," said another.

U.S. officials said Mr. Habib's resignation was over tactics. One said he had wanted to go to Nicaragua for talks on the peace plan but had been refused by the White House.

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1st Chagall exhibit planned by Soviets

MOSCOW (AP) — The first significant Soviet exhibit of paintings by Russian-born artist Marc Chagall opens on Sept. 2 and is expected to draw as many as 500,000 visitors, a prominent Soviet cultural figure has said. Poet Andrei Voznesensky said in a telephone interview from his country house near Moscow that the exhibit will gather the best of the late artist's work done both in his homeland and while living in France and the United States. Chagall's widow, Valentina, who lives in St. Paul De Vence in southern France, plans to bring 50 of his works to the Soviet Union later this month. She will also participate in opening festivities at the Pushkin Museum, where the works will hang for at least two months, Voznesensky said. Another 15 paintings owned by Chagall's daughter, Ida, have been sent for the exhibit, and U.S. industrialist Armand Hammer loaned his "Blue Angel" for the event. "From our museums there are many, many paintings and lithographs, so many I don't even know the number," Voznesensky said. "These are really the greatest of his work, from the 1920s."

Ghost scare pushes sale of lime branches

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Tales of a "floating ghost" have sent residents of a north-east Borneo town rushing to buy lime branches to ward off evil. Malaysia's national news agency Bernama reported Tuesday. Streets in Sibu were deserted at night and lime branch vendors reported brisk sales during the day. The town police chief said the tales were spread by groups promoting sales of the branches. Malaysian legend says a "floating ghost" preys on pregnant women and sucks blood from the placenta, killing the fetus.

Poison pens spell death for cockroaches

PEKING (R) — China has officially declared a district of Inner Mongolia cockroach-free after 50,000 households used poison pens to wage war on the insects. Residents of Qingshan used the pesticide-tipped pens to draw lines which spell sudden death for any cockroach which crossed them, the New China News Agency said. The cockroach population density has dropped from 22.2 per room to 1.37, qualifying Qingshan as China's first cockroach-free zone, it added.

Man kills himself with cobra venom

BANGKOK (R) — A 42-year-old Thai man apparently committed suicide in his flat here by injecting himself with cobra venom, police said. Police said Serikul Vichitkhanan wrote two notes, one saying "...it's better if I die. I'll inject cobra venom into my body. Life is just this." The other apologised for being two days behind on the rent. Police said a syringe and vial found in the room would be analysed and an autopsy performed to verify venom was the poison and that death was by suicide.

U.S. to allow AIDS test on humans

WASHINGTON (AP) — A potential AIDS vaccine will be tested on humans, the first time such tests have been permitted in the United States, published reports say. The Food and Drug Administration has given approval to Microgenics Inc. of West Haven, Connecticut, to do the limited tests. The New Haven Register reported Sunday and the Washington Drug Letter reported Monday. FDA spokesman Bill Grigg said Monday night he could not confirm the reports because it is up to the company to make such announcements. However, he said that if the reports were confirmed, the company would be the first to receive agency approval. Telephones at the company and the home of President Franklin Volovitz went unanswered Monday evening. The Drug Newsletter, which monitors FDA actions, said the product is made from non-infective envelope proteins of the AIDS virus rather than the virus itself, meaning the vaccine could not accidentally transmit acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Most candidate vaccines use this procedure, taking a piece of the outer coat of the virus and using the protein to generate antibodies. Clinical trials of the potential vaccine will be done at the National Institutes of Health's Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland, a Washington suburb, the reports said. The Washington Post reported Tuesday that the first round of tests will be on uninfected volunteers to check for side effects and to see whether the vaccine can raise an immune response. That testing is expected to start by October.

Vodka sales fall in Soviet Union

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet alcohol sales fell by about one-fifth in the first seven months this year, the Soviet news agency TASS said Tuesday. TASS, quoting State Statistics Committee data, said liquor stores and restaurants had sold about 750 million litres (160 million gallons) of vodka and other strong liquor from January to July, a quarter less than in the same period last year. Wine sales were also about 25 per cent down on the first seven months of 1986, but beer sales had remained at the same level and sales of sparkling wine had increased, it said. According to official data, Soviet alcohol sales fell by about 40 per cent last year in a crackdown on heavy drinking by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who has raised prices and limited hours in which liquor can be sold. The Soviet press has, however, reported a rise in illegal home brewing by people trying to get round the restrictions.

5 films to be shot in Soviet-U.S. venture

MOSCOW (R) — Five films will be made in a joint Soviet-U.S. project costing \$100 million and preparations for shooting the first have begun, the Soviet News Agency TASS reported Tuesday. Alexander Arshansky, deputy head of the Soviet film organisation, said as saying it would start the joint project with the Midwood Film Company of the United States. He said the Soviet side would hold 51 per cent of the capital and profits would be shared equally. U.S. embassy officials in Moscow were not immediately able to comment on the report. TASS said preparations had begun at the Mosfilm Studios in Moscow for shooting the film Hartman as part of the agreement between Midwood and Sovfilm, which imports and exports films. TASS said Hartman and a second film, the Sun, would be shot by American directors and three others would be made by Soviet directors. The films would be mainly shot in the Soviet Union with the U.S. side providing filming equipment. It said Hartman was about an 18-year-old youth who wins a dog sled race against professional drivers.

Scientists synthesise new element

MOSCOW (R) — A new element, the 110th in the table of Periodic Elements, has been synthesised by an international team of scientists at a Soviet nuclear research institute, the Soviet News Agency TASS said. TASS quoted scientists at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research at Dubna, outside Moscow, as saying the new element was obtained by the bombardment of thorium and uranium isotopes by a heavy-duty beam of accelerated calcium and argon nuclei. It did not name the new element. TASS said the work was conducted on the institute's U-400 cyclotron using a non-traditional synthesising technique proposed by Georgy Flerov, of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. The cyclotron was capable of producing nuclei beams of an intensity several times greater than the summed intensity of all other similar accelerators in the world. The report said scientists from France, East Germany and Romania joined Soviet specialists in the two-year research project, led by Professor Yuri Oganesyan of the Soviet Union. "The findings provide fresh evidence in favour of the existence of a so-called island of super-heavy elements possessing high stability to radioactive decay," TASS quoted Flerov as saying. "According to current theories, such an 'island' exists in the area of the elements with atomic numbers 110 to 114." Flerov said the results of the search for the 110th element had opened the way to the synthesis of still heavier elements. Experiments on the synthesis of the 111th element were already under way at Dubna.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1**—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q10762 ♠A9863 ♠85 ♠43
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.2**—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠74 ♠AQJ6 ♠985 ♠AKJ10
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?
- Q.3**—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AJ862 ♠K87 ♠6542 ♠43
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ 1♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.4**—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ862 ♠K87 ♠6542 ♠43
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ 1♥ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.5**—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ855 ♠K7 ♠83 ♠AJ104
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ 1♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6**—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ83 ♠AQ5 ♠AK10 ♠J3
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

DR. TAREK SUHEIMAT
INTERNIST AND NEPHROLOGIST
Ex-chairman of the Department of Medicine and head of Kidney Disease Section at the King Hussein Medical Centre, announces the opening of his private practice clinic near Khalidi Hospital, Jabal Amman, as from 15th August 1987.
Hours: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 4-6 p.m.

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